

BALTIMORE Plot

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# The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

## The Baltimore Plot 1861

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

**STARTLING RUMOR.**

**Mr. Lincoln gone to Washington.**

**PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT**

**ELECT! 2/23/61**

*Harrisburg, Pa., 23d.* People were astounded this morning by an announcement that Mr. Lincoln had gone to Washington on a special train, despatches having been received here requiring his presence in Washington.

It is reported that there was a plot to assassinate him while passing through Baltimore. The Baltimore Committee were here, but will not have an interview with him.

*Baltimore, 23d.* Mr. Lincoln arrived here at 8 o'clock *incog*, and went direct to Washington. His family and the remainder of the party will arrive at 10 o'clock. Much excitement is occasioned by the *ruse*.

*Washington, 23d.* There was a great sensation here as soon as it was known that Mr. Lincoln had arrived in the early train. He unsuccessfully sought to conceal the fact, especially from the press, his arrival being first communicated to a few personal friends in confidence.

He was met at the station by several gentlemen of distinction without formality, and immediately proceeded to Willard's Hotel. He yesterday was advised to come without delay.

Preparations had been made to meet him at the station this evening, and the Mayor was to make the welcome address, but the programme was spoiled.

At about 10 o'clock, Mr. Lincoln, accompanied by Mr. Seward, paid his respects to the President.

After spending ten minutes in general conversation, Senator Bigler and John Cochrane of New York, who happened to be at the White House, were introduced to Mr. Lincoln. The latter afterwards returned to his hotel.

#### FLIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT TO WASHINGTON.

The city was startled on Saturday by the intelligence that the President-elect, instead of proceeding on his journey to Washington from Harrisburg, in accordance with the published programme, on Saturday morning, had left the latter city secretly, on a special train, on Friday night, and returning to Philadelphia, had passed thence, unrecognized, through Baltimore, and was already in the Federal Capital. This step, it appears, was induced by the desire to avoid threatened trouble in Baltimore, and was taken at the earnest solicitation of his friends and leading Republicans in Washington, who had received authentic information that an organized demonstration would be made against him in Baltimore—if, indeed, he were allowed to reach there alive—for it was also feared that an attempt would be made to throw the Presidential train from the track on the Northern Central Railroad. This information, it appears, was imparted to Mr. Lincoln on Thursday night at Philadelphia, and he consented, after considerable hesitation, to the private arrangement which was subsequently carried into effect. He reached Washington early on Saturday morning, and proceeded quietly to his hotel, his arrival being known to but few. He soon afterward, in company with Senator Seward, paid a visit to President Buchanan, and interchanged civilities with him and with other gentlemen of distinction.

#### ONE VERSION OF THE PLOT.

The *Herald* correspondent says: "It appears that the plot was concocted in Baltimore, and, being discovered by a detective officer, was by him communicated to two or three leading Republicans, including Mr. Seward and Thurlow Weed. Afterward it was made known to Mr. Judd, of the Presidential party.

"On Thursday last, the intelligence having been privately forwarded to New York, several detectives were at once sent from that city to confer and co-operate with those who had the matter originally in charge. Mr. General Superintendent Kennedy and Commissioner Acton were also on hand. Together they succeeded in ferreting out the details of the conspiracy, and enough has been made known to give it, in the minds of these men, a rank by the side of the most infamous attempts ever made upon human life.

"The exact mode in which the conspirators intended to consummate their designs has not yet transpired; but enough is known to be satisfactory that either an infernal machine was to be placed under the cars or railway, like the Orsini attempt upon Napoleon, or some obstruction placed upon the track whereby the train would be thrown down an embankment at some convenient spot; and that if these failed, then, on the arrival at Baltimore, during the rush and crush of the crowd, as at Buffalo, by knife or pistol, the assassination was to be effected.

"It has also been ascertained that two or three of the conspirators were in New York on Wednesday, the 20th inst., watching the course of events while the President-elect was there."

#### ANOTHER VERSION.

The *Times* correspondent says: "On Thursday night after he had retired, Mr. Lincoln was aroused and informed that a stranger desired to see him on a matter of life or death. He declined to admit him unless he gave his name, which he at once did. Of such prestige did the name carry that while Mr. Lincoln was yet disrobed he granted an interview to the caller.

"A prolonged conversation elicited the fact that an organized body of men had determined that Mr. Lincoln should not be inaugurated, and that he should never leave the city of Baltimore alive, if, indeed, he ever entered it.

"The list of the names of the conspirators presented a most astonishing array of persons high in Southern confidence, and some whose fame is not to this country alone.

"Statesmen laid the plan, bankers indorsed it, and adventurers were to carry it into effect. As they understood Mr. Lincoln was to leave Harrisburg at nine o'clock this morning by special train, and the idea was, if possible, to throw the cars from the road at some point where they would rush down a steep embankment and destroy in a moment the lives of all on board. In case of the failure of this project, their plan was to surround the carriage on the way from dépôt to dépôt in Baltimore, and assassinate him with dagger or pistol-shot.

#### PROPOSED ATTEMPT ON MR. LINCOLN'S LIFE.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* publishes a letter which it received last December, under cover for transmission to Mr. Lincoln, from a gentleman in one of the Gulf States. He gave references to business houses in Cincinnati, who vouch for his reliability, and states that on the 15th December he became possessed of information rendering it positive that an attempt was to be made upon Mr. Lincoln's life on inauguration-day. A wealthy and influential man, living in the town where the writer resided, had openly declared that he would kill Mr. Lincoln; and the plan, as devised by himself and friends, was for three or four hundred of the conspirators to collect at some convenient point on inauguration-day, with the one who aspired to be the assassin in their midst. While Mr. Lincoln was speaking he was to shoot him with a rifle, probably a Maynard, made in such a manner that it could be carried in an inside coat-pocket. His friends, it was expected, would be able to shield the assassin from detection whether he was successful or not. Two weeks after the receipt of this letter the editor of the *Commercial* received another from the same source, reaffirming the information first given.

#### SEIZURE OF NEW YORK VESSELS AT SAVANNAH.

We read in the Savannah *Republican* of February 22:

"Up to the present time the arms seized by the New York police have failed to come to hand, or even to be delivered into the possession of the agent of the State in New York. There is no prospect of their recovery, according to present appearances, and the Governor has determined to resort to other means for reimbursing our citizens for their loss. Under his order Colonel Lawton seized yesterday the following vessels now in port, belonging to citizens of New York, and placed them under a military guard:

"Ship *Martha J. Ward*, 753 tons, Captain T. consigned to Brigham, Baldwin, & Co., and Liverpool.

"Bark *Adjuster*, 495 tons, Captain Muller and Michels, and loading market.

"Brig *Harold*, consigned to lug with lumber for Sand.

"These vessels are a portion of the loss, with advertise days, unless the men."





ocratic paper—contained the following paragraph concerning the arrival of the President elect in that city, which, as will be seen, was evidently intended to arouse a feeling of opposition to him, to excite the mob spirit to prevent the utterance of his sentiments:

Mr. Lincoln, the President elect of the United States, will arrive in this city, with his suite, this afternoon, by special train from Harrisburg, and will proceed, we learn, directly to Washington. It is to be hoped that no opportunity may be afforded him—or that, if it be afforded, he will not embrace it—to repeat in our midst the sentiments which he is reported to have expressed yesterday in Philadelphia.

**THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY.** *Baltimore, Feb. 23, P. M.* A very large crowd greeted the arrival of the train bearing the Presidential party, at York. Mr. Wood announced from the rear platform that Mr. Lincoln was not aboard, having gone direct to Washington. Mr. Wood then introduced Robert Lincoln, who happened to stand beside him, when very much to the latter's astonishment, the train moved forward.

At 11.40 the train passed the Maryland boundary.

The committee from Baltimore joined the party at Harrisburg, consisting of W. G. Saethen, W. T. Marshall, L. Blunbenber, W. Bell, J. Bishop, W. E. Gleason, J. M. Palmer, and F. S. Cochrane, the latter on behalf of the Electoral College. All of them feel very indignant at the want of confidence in the citizens of Baltimore, as evinced by Mr. Lincoln's course, although it is understood he was opposed to it, but was overruled by other parties, who have assumed the control of his movements.

Most ample arrangements had been made here for securing the safe and respectful transit of Mr. Lincoln through the city. The police force was all out and fully equipped, and all good citizens were anxious that no indignity should have been manifested. The apprehension entertained was that certain disreputable parties, who lately attached themselves to the Republican organization here, were expected to make a demonstration which would have aroused a bad feeling in the minds of some and partially caused a disturbance. Otherwise there was no reason to apprehend anything unpleasant here.

**MR. LINCOLN'S MOVEMENTS ON Saturday** are narrated in full on the first page. It will be remembered that a dangerous obstruction was actually placed on the track of the Toledo and Western Railroad, just before the Presidential train arrived at the Ohio State line, and was only discovered by mere accident, which circumstance justified some fears and precaution. The public, in this section of the country, are loth to believe that so diabolical a project as was reported on Saturday could have been entertained by persons calling themselves Americans. But the Boston Traveller of this afternoon publishes a despatch giving the name of the messenger from Washington to Mr. Lincoln, and repeating the story as it has been previously narrated. The Traveller despatch will be found in the telegraph column.

*Boston Transcript*

2-25-1861

— Twenty pickpockets have been arrested at Buffalo, who were in attendance on the Lincoln reception at that city. Upwards of one thousand dollars were found in their possession, besides notes and certificates of deposit.



## The Rumored Plot to Assassinate Mr. Lincoln.

With regard to this startling affair, the New York Times of Saturday has the following detailed despatch from its correspondent attached to the travelling party of the President elect:

Harrisburg, 23d—S. A. M. Abraham Lincoln, the President elect of the United States, is safe in the capital of the nation. By the admirable arrangement of Gen. Scott, the country has been spared the lasting disgrace, which would have been fastened indelibly upon it had Mr. Lincoln been murdered upon his journey thither, as he would have been had he followed the programme as announced in papers, and gone by the Northern Central Railroad to Baltimore.

On Thursday night, after he had retired, Mr. Lincoln was aroused and informed that a stranger desired to see him on a matter of life or death. He declined to admit him unless he gave his name, which he at once did.

Such prestige did the name carry that while Mr. Lincoln was yet disrobed he granted an interview to the caller.

A prolonged conversation elicited the fact that an organized body of men had determined that Mr. Lincoln should not be inaugurated, and that he should never leave the city of Baltimore alive, if indeed he ever entered it.

The list of the names of the conspirators presented a most astonishing array of persons high in Southern confidence, and some whose fame is not confined to this country alone.

Statesmen laid the plan, bankers endorsed it, and adventurers were to carry it into effect. As they understood Mr. Lincoln was to leave Harrisburg at 9 o'clock this morning by special train, and the idea was, if possible, to throw the cars from the road at some point where they could rush down a steep embankment and destroy in a moment the lives of all on board. In case of the failure of this project, their plan was to surround the carriage on the way from depot to depot in Baltimore and assassinate him with dagger or pistol shot.

So authentic was the source from which the information was obtained, that Mr. Lincoln, after counselling with his friends, was compelled to make arrangements which would enable him to subvert the plans of his enemies.

Greatly to the annoyance of the thousands who desired to call on him last night, he declined giving a reception. The final council was held at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Lincoln did not want to yield, and Colonel Sumner actually cried with indignation; but Mrs. Lincoln, seconded by Mr. Judd and Mr. Lincoln's original informant, insisted upon it, and at nine o'clock Mr. Lincoln left on a special train. He wore a Scotch plaid cap and a very long military cloak, so that he was entirely unrecognizable. Accompanied by Superintendent Lewis and one friend, he started, while all the town, with the exception of Mrs. Lincoln, Colonel Sumner, Mr. Judd, and two reporters, who were sworn to secrecy, supposed him to be asleep.

The telegraph wires were put beyond the reach of any one who might desire to use them.

At one o'clock the fact was whispered from one to another, and it soon became the theme of most excited conversation. Many thought it a very injudicious move, while others regarded it as a stroke of great merit.

The N. Y. Herald's correspondent sends the following, dated at Harrisburg, Saturday morning:

The city was startled just now by a rumor that Lincoln had left on a special train. The information was said to have leaked out from Col. Sumner, who was indignant at his flight, but was not made public until after the telegraph office closed for the night. Two hours before the Herald reporter obtained the facts, but was kept locked in a room, unable to use them until half an hour before this despatch is written.

The details of the whole affair were obtained by him, and even rumor has not hinted them all. In brief, Mr. Lincoln, the President-elect, left Harrisburg secretly at six o'clock last evening, took a special train over the Pennsylvania Central Railroad to Philadelphia, thence took a special train to Washington, and before this reaches New York will be, if no accident occurs, safe at the house of Senator Trumbull and in charge of General Scott. The reasons for this movement, so extraordinary and unprecedented, are, that Lincoln's friends believe, from information acquired, I am not permitted to tell how—that if he carried out his programme, and left by special train at nine this morning, the train would either be run off an embankment, blown up by grenades placed beneath the track, or in some way destroyed, between the Maryland line and Baltimore, or that, this failing, Mr. Lincoln would be mobbed and as-

sassinated in Baltimore during his ride from depot to depot.

How imminent his friends thought this danger was may be judged by the fact that one of those who was aware of the plot, but was obliged to go where Mr. Lincoln went, made his will, sealed up his papers and prepared for sudden death in case Mr. Lincoln should insist upon going on this morning.

To avoid a demonstration at Baltimore, Mr. Wood, who has charge of the trains, was undetermined last night whether to go via Philadelphia to avoid change of cars, or to go by the direct route from Harrisburg, and cross Baltimore in close carriages.

He declined the latter course, and in response to a letter from Erastus Corning, saying that the Peace Congress desired Mr. Lincoln in Washington as soon as possible, he arranged to arrive several hours before the time set down in the programme. Older heads were at work, however, and not until Mr. Lincoln had gone was Wood let into the secret and his trouble proven useless. So complete was Wood's mystification, that after Mr. Lincoln left he was bothering himself as to which Baltimore delegation (three are present) should be received, and wanted to see the President elect about it.

Although not divulged to Mr. Lincoln till yesterday, as some say, the whole plan was arranged days ago. Only three persons were to be let into the plot, including Mrs. Lincoln and Mr. Judd of Illinois. Speeches and receptions were to be kept up meanwhile. Special trains were arranged, the telegraph silenced, the wires to be cut, if necessary, Lincoln to leave, Judd to be out of the way, Mrs. Lincoln and family to return to Philadelphia, and the denouement here kept back till about 8 o'clock this morning. Too many vessels were entrusted with the secret, however. Some were leaky—and it is out.

Mr. Lincoln returned from the ceremonies at the State House at three o'clock yesterday afternoon. Then the plan was laid before him. He is said to have indignantly rejected it. Mrs. Lincoln begged of him to go. Other persons had to be let into the secret, in order to persuade Mr. Lincoln; among them Governor Curtin. All said go. Colonel Sumner almost wept with anger at this plan—called it abominable, and said Lincoln was as brave as any man, but he had cowardly friends. Lincoln was assured that he would certainly be assassinated, perhaps the whole family destroyed, and that an attack would be made upon Fort Sumter at the same time; finally his friends' persuasion, and Mrs. Lincoln's tears, induced him to consent to the arrangement.

Lincoln was conducted down stairs, put into a covered carriage and driven swiftly to the depot. Few saw him depart, and those were assured that he had gone to Governor Curtin's residence to rest.

In the evening crowds assembled at the hotel to attend the reception, but Wood assured the company that Lincoln was ill, and had gone to bed. Mrs. Lincoln's agitation nearly discovered the whole secret, and she was obliged to give up the ladies' reception, pleading fatigue and sickness, the great crowd and the smallness of the parlors. The crowd gradually dispersed, the last serenades and cheers died away, and the secret was safe. Few knew it. Mrs. Lincoln was in her husband's room to answer accidental or intentional inquiries. Those precautions were all the more necessary as

many Baltimoreans were in town. Only one person, supposed to be Mr. Judd, went with Lincoln on the train.

The New York Evening Post says:

We learn today from a gentleman who accompanied Mr. Lincoln and his party during the greater part of the journey from Springfield to this city, that great precautions were taken at the various points on the route, to guard against any injury to the person of the President elect, from the malicious designs of enemies.

Before entering the cars the conductors of the line were accustomed to thoroughly examine the seats and the cushions, to see that there was no dangerous machine or persons secreted in the carriage. This precaution shows that not only was there danger, but that that danger was at least partially known to Mr. Lincoln and his friends.

It is well understood that General Scott advised Mr. Lincoln, before leaving home, to have his family at all times around him on his journey to the Federal Capital.

The New York Herald's Washington correspondent gives the following additional statement:

Senator Seward received official intelligence on Thursday evening, from reliable sources, that a most diabolical plot had been successfully arranged, on the part of a secret organization in Baltimore, to assassinate the President elect on his arrival in that city. Mr. Seward communicated this intelligence to a few private friends, and it was determined to despatch a messenger at once to Philadelphia, informing him of the fact, and urging him to take an earlier train, which would bring him through in the night. Mr. Lincoln said he had received intelligence from Baltimore of a similar nature. A special train was accordingly arranged, and he departed at once for Washington.

It is positively denied by Baltimoreans that any such organization exists, or that any interference would have been made with the Presidential party. There is little doubt that the feeling and sentiment of the people of Baltimore is very bitter against Mr. Lincoln, so much so, indeed, that violence might have been attempted. It is regarded as a very wise move in giving them the slip.

The New York Commercial Advertiser of Saturday afternoon thus commented on the intelligence:

At an early hour this morning our special correspondent at Washington surprised us by a telegraphic despatch announcing that the President elect had arrived there *incognito*, accompanied by two friends. At a later hour, a special despatch from Harrisburg, dated also this morning, was received by the agent of the Associated Press, to the effect that during the night, to the astonishment of the people of that city, Mr. Lincoln had taken his departure by a special train for Washington. Both these despatches, with further special despatches received exclusively at this office, and others received by the Associated Press, will be found in their appropriate column.

The cause of this movement indicates such a degree of atrocity and wickedness that we cannot trust ourselves to follow our feelings in speaking of it. That party feeling should be carried to such an extent that individual assassination and wholesale murder should be deliberately resorted to, in intention, to satisfy it, almost surpasses belief, and who would not fain disbelieve it of American citizens? According to our present advices, however, there seems to be no reason for doubting it, or for supposing that the fiendish project was confined to men of the baser sort.

While we have all along found it difficult to believe that this and kindred plots had really been formed, we have felt too that we had no right to suppose that General Scott's sagacity was at fault. In the name of humanity, and for the sake of our country's reputation, we thank that distinguished veteran for the sagacity, prudence and foresight he has manifested, for to him doubtless it is owing that Mr. Lincoln has escaped assassination.

The country, at least that portion of it that mainly contributed to raise Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency, will insist that the honor of the Republic shall be vindicated, and that the parties to this dastardly mode of revenging a political defeat, whether they be of high or low degree, shall have their villainy exposed and as many of them as can possibly be reached, shall be brought to condign punishment.

Nor can any escape public disgrace and loathing who may be ever so remotely mixed up with the more immediate actors in this horrible plot. If persons high in position have lent their countenance to it, as is affirmed, let them all the more be held up to public scorn.

Possibly the President's allusion yesterday morning to assassination, and to the possibility of his never being inaugurated, may have been caused by the interview on Thursday night, mentioned in the despatch to the Times.

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Possibly the President's allusion yesterday morning to assassination, and to the possibility of his never being inaugurated, may have been caused by the interview on Thursday night, mentioned in the despatch to the Times.

The Baltimore Exchange, of Saturday—a Democratic paper—contained the following paragraph concerning the arrival of the President elect in that city, which, as will be seen, was evidently intended to arouse a feeling of opposition to him, to excite the mob spirit to prevent the utterance of his sentiments:

Mr. Lincoln, the President elect of the United States, will arrive in this city, with his suite, this afternoon, by special train from Harrisburg, and will proceed, we learn, directly to Washington. It is to be hoped that no opportunity may be afforded him—or that, if it be afforded, he will not embrace it—to repeat in our midst the sentiments which he is reported to have expressed yesterday in Philadelphia.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY. Baltimore, Feb. 23, P. M. A very large crowd greeted the arrival of the train bearing the Presidential party, at York. Mr. Wood announced from the rear platform that Mr. Lincoln was not aboard, having gone direct to Washington. Mr. Wood then introduced Robert Lincoln, who happened to stand beside him, when very much to the latter's astonishment, the train moved forward.

At 11:40 the train passed the Maryland boundary. The committee from Baltimore joined the party at Harrisburg, consisting of W. G. Suetten, W. T. Marshall, L. Blumenberg, W. Bell, J. Bishop, W. E. Gleason, J. M. Palmer, and F. S. Cochrane. All the latter on behalf of the Electoral College. All of them feel very indignant at the want of confidence in the citizens of Baltimore, as evinced by

Mr. Lincoln's course, although it is understood he was opposed to it, but was overruled by other parties, who have assumed the control of his movements.

Most ample arrangements had been made here for securing the safe and respectful transit of Mr. Lincoln through the city. The police force was all out and fully equipped, and all good citizens were anxious that no indignity should have been manifested. The apprehension entertained was that certain disreputable parties, who lately attached themselves to the Republican organization here, were expected to make a demonstration which would have aroused a bad feeling in the minds of some and partially caused a disturbance. Otherwise there was no reason to apprehend anything unpleasant here.

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BOSTON ADV

**THE ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST MR. LINCOLN.**

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer makes the following authoritative statement in regard to this matter:

I am able to give you, upon good authority, a statement that I am assured will set at rest all doubts as to the contemplated assassination of Mr. Lincoln, who was informed of the conspiracy in Philadelphia on Thursday night, but did not intend to change his programme of progress, until he was urged by his friends and General Scott, who knew every particular of action and intention on the part of the conspirators. They were fifteen in number, and one of them was supplied with means, by a friend of the Government of the United States, to become an associate. He took all the necessary oaths, and disclosed the whole plan both to the President-elect and to General Scott. The names of all the parties are in the hands of the Government. What disposition will be made of these persons is matter of conjecture; but the testimony against them is certainly sufficient to convict them at the bar of public opinion, if not before a jury. 2/27/61



We have been informed by gentlemen connected with the party of Mr. Lincoln since he left home for Washington, that there were several attempts to take his life made during the journey through Indiana and Ohio. The one which created the most serious consequences took place on the Presidential train leaving Cincinnati, when a grenade of the most destructive character was discovered in the car occupied by Mr. Lincoln, his family and personal friends. It was found in a small carpet bag, which had been deposited in a seat of the car by some unknown person. Attention was drawn to it from the fact that no baggage was allowed in the cars. On examination, the grenade concealed in the carpet bag was discovered to be ignited, and so arranged that within fifteen minutes it would have exploded with a force sufficient to have demolished the car and destroyed the lives of all persons in it. Of course, the "infernal machine" was speedily removed and properly disposed of.

" -- " Under this head.

BOSTON A. W.

#### Mr. Lincoln's Apprehensions.

Mr. LINCOLN'S fear, as to his personal safety, was not aroused for the first time at Harrisburgh. A correspondence between Mayor BERRIT and the President of the Ohio and Baltimore Railroad showed that Mr. LINCOLN, who had at first selected that route to Washington, abandoned it from fear of personal danger. He was afraid to go through a slave State.

On most of the route from Chicago, a pilot engine was sent ahead of the regular train to look out for obstacles and dangers and possible conspiracies. The journey was made in the daytime; and the risk of the unknown dangers of the night thus avoided.

Perhaps these apprehensions account for the disjointed and vacillating speeches of Mr. LINCOLN on the way; and for his worn, nervous and bewildered look.—What struck us most in his appearance here, was his feeble and sensitive nature, and his lack of sturdiness and solidity of character.

His credulous acceptance of the horrible hoax played on him at Baltimore, his disguise and flight at night, leaving his wife and children to run the risk of the doomed train, reveal a state of the nervous system that could only be brought about by the irritation of long-continued fear.

It is suggested that his friends took advantage of his impressibility and timidity, to hurry him on to the seat of government, and take possession of him. For it is clear that whoever has him will hold him; and that as he is moulded by others, his character and course will be shaped.

Indeed, the friends of union and the well wishers of the country have taken courage from his cowardice. They feared his obstinacy and his blindness to the dangers which beset us. They hope now that he will yield to those around him; and that he will be the more ready to concede as he is the more susceptible to the character of the crisis and to the consequences involved in it. It is deplorable that the hopes of the country should rest upon a foundation so wretched as this. Yet it is to this condition that Fanaticism and Folly have reduced us!



Courtesy New York Public Library

*"The Flight of Abraham," a hostile cartoon appearing in "Harper's Weekly" at the time of Lincoln's inauguration. Lincoln left New York in secret because his friends feared he would be assassinated. His enemies circulated erroneous reports that he was disguised*



#### **The Flight of Mr. Lincoln.**

WASHINGTON, March 4.—It is now pretty generally ascertained that Mr. Lincoln did not arrive in Baltimore in the passenger train from Philadelphia, but that he traveled either in the freight train or in the freight car of Adams & Co.'s Express. This accounts for the statements of the detective police, that no person corresponding with the description of the President elect came on that train, on which were the chief of the New York police, Mr. Kenedy, and other experts. The probability is that he came as freight in the package car, accompanied by a single companion disguised as a pedlar. Of course, it is only a matter of taste how a gentleman travels, but in view of Mr. Lincoln's position before the country, it looks very much like sacrificing his dignity, to senseless timidity.

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**A LIFE PRESERVER FOR MR. LINCOLN.**

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It is rumored that Herring has received an order from Washington city for one of his largest and best patent iron safes, for the White House. It is understood to be for Mr. Lincoln's personal use, not only for a retreat in time of danger, when assassins are supposed to be about, but if he should desire to travel, it is believed, it will be safer to transport him from place to place in it, than in a Scotch cap and military cloak! Gen. Scott is to carry the key!—*N. Y. Day Book.*

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AN ACCURATE PORTRAIT:

"GLAUCUS," one of the Washington correspondents of the *Baltimore Sun*, in a letter draws with a master's hand a portrait of the present Black Republican Chief Magistrate, and the policy (if any well-defined policy he has) of his Administration. The truthfulness and accuracy of this picture, will be readily seen by all who look at it:

WASHINGTON, April 2.

Before the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln it was the great vaunt of the republicans that "Honest old Abe," upon his advent into power, would show the world that "we had a government." The country was almost led to believe that we were to have a second Jackson. Lincoln even told us, in one of his wayside speeches, that he should "put his foot down firmly." The cry beastfully rung in every ear that "Old Abe" was a man of pluck and backbone, and that he would meet the crisis with a nerve and patriotism that would surprise his enemies. But he has done it? It has now been a month since the Lincoln government was ushered into power, and what has it done? It has not taken one manly step, or made a single explicit, authoritative declaration as to its policy. Not a hand is put forward to save the country. Instead of meeting the great questions that agitate the popular mind, it is exclusively occupied with the parcelling out of the spoils and offices, as beef and mutton are disposed of in the market. It seems to have no higher patriotism than the beggarly appointment of the spoils and plunder, and presents a spectacle little better than that of sailors gorging themselves with liquor, and drowning conscience and fear in brutal self-indulgence, while their vessel is fast drifting to destruction.

The truth is the administration has no policy. Mr. Lincoln is a mere man of straw. He has shown nothing so far but a vague, unmanly, cowardly, sneaking, indecisive course. He is one moment flattering, another blustering.— One day he intends to reinforce Forts Sumter and Pickens; another day he is going to evacuate them. One day he declares for peace; another day he grows mad and threatens gunpowder. A crafty indecision characterizes him that plainly shows that the man at heart desires war, but is compelled to pursue peace. If he had the good of the country at heart, he would withdraw the troops from the Southern forts, and abandon every show of hostile array against the seceded States. In this way he would place matters on a peace footing, and open the way for negotiations looking to the reconstruction of the Union. The Union cannot be reconstructed by gunpowder, nor by "masterly inactivity." Mr. Lincoln knows this, and yet he pretends to play the shuttlecock, rather than give to the country one manly, outspoken declaration of peace.

The war policy of the administration is also shown in the character of the men it has appointed to office. He has taken under its wing men of the most extreme abolition sentiments, regardless of their fitness and experience.— Burlingame, who openly declared in Congress that we should have an "anti-slavery God, an anti-slavery Bible, and an anti-slavery Constitution," is given a first-class mission; Joshua K. Giddings, who would think he was doing God service by cutting the throat of every slaveholder, is sent as Consul-General to Canada; and the New York Tribune, which has been waging a war of extermination against the institutions of the South for the last twenty years, tatters five of its editors upon missions abroad! The rest of the offices are distributed, with no little recklessness, among the prairie politicians and lager-beer orators of the West, and the whole thing is a mad feast of the spoils. The war between the outs and the ins waxed warm, and shows the heftiness of the "irrepressible conflict."

The outs would think it no sin

To drive the ins out and to screw themselves

in,

While the ins are agreed to a man,  
To keep themselves snug where they are—if  
they can.

[LETTER OF H. E. THAYER.]

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 3d, 1867.

ALLAN PINKERTON, ESQ., Principal National Police Association,  
Chicago, Ill.

*Dear Sir:*—I am in receipt of yours of 31st ult., enclosing "Extracts from Lossing's History of the War," one of which is a copy of a letter from John A. Kennedy, General Superintendent Metropolitan Police, New York, in which Mr. Kennedy claims for himself and David S. Bookstaver, of the Metropolitan Police, the honor of having prevented the assassination of Mr. Lincoln at Baltimore in February, 1861. In your letter you request a statement of my connection in the matter, and what I know of it, viz.: The passage of Mr. Lincoln from Harrisburg to Washington via Philadelphia and Baltimore, on the night of Feb. 22d, 1861.

In February, 1861, I was Manager of the American Telegraph Office in this city. On the morning of the 22d of February I was introduced at my office by W. P. Westervelt, Superintendent, to Geo. H. Burns, Confidential Agent of E. S. Sanford, Esq., President of the American Telegraph Company, who informed me that a plot had been discovered in Baltimore to assassinate the President-elect on his passage through that city, and it had been arranged that Mr. Lincoln should go through from Harrisburg to Washington privately on the night of the 22d, and it was desired to prevent any possibility of the fact of the President's departure from Harrisburg being telegraphed from Harrisburg to Baltimore; that the telegraph wires on the line of the Northern Central Railroad, from Harrisburg to Baltimore, should be cut, so as to prevent communication from passing by that route, and asked if I had a trusty man to do the work. I replied that I had, and detailed Andrew Wynne, my lineman, for the service; provided him with a coil of copper wire and gave him instructions to attach a ground wire to each of the two line wires at the back of a pole, and if possible to cut the line wires and make the ground connections on both sides and leaving the line attached to the pole so that parties who might be sent out to hunt for the difficulty would not discover the trouble for some

time; at least, until long after Mr. Lincoln should have arrived at Washington.

W. P. Westervelt, Esq., Superintendent, was to accompany Mr. Wynne to Harrisburg. They can speak for themselves as to how the work was done. Mr. Wynne reported on the 23d, having successfully accomplished his mission, having cut and grounded both wires.

On the morning of the 22d, I also promised Mr. Burns that I would myself be on duty at my office during the night and until Mr. Lincoln's arrival in Washington, to see that no despatches passed over the wires from Harrisburg to Baltimore, giving information, and also to receive and deliver to the St. Louis Hotel any despatches that might come for "J. H. Hutchinson." I was on guard on that eventful night all night. Early in the evening a despatch came from Harrisburg for "J. H. Hutchinson," I think, from Burns, announcing the departure. No despatches came from Harrisburg to Baltimore.

Early on the morning of the 23d, a despatch was received, announcing the arrival of Mr. Lincoln in Washington, and that he was met at the depot by Hon. W. H. Seward. I then left the operating room and went home.

Mr. Burns afterwards informed me that Allan Pinkerton had saved Mr. Lincoln's life, and subsequently introduced me to you as Allan Pinkerton, *alias* J. H. Hutchinson.

This is the substance of my knowledge of the matter. I have always believed, and, in fact, know, that you took Mr. Lincoln from Philadelphia to Washington on that eventful night, and to you is due the honor of having saved the life of Mr. Lincoln and the country its President-elect.

Yours truly,

H. E. THAYER.



[LETTER OF ANDREW WYNNE, ESQ.]

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 3d, 1867.

A. PINKERTON, ESQ.

*Dear Sir:*—Your note of Oct. 31st received, and in reply have to state that I am the person who cut the wires between Harrisburg and Baltimore, for the purpose of preventing the report of Mr. Lincoln's departure on that occasion. The facts of the case are as follows:

On the morning of February 22d, 1861, I was employed in the office of the American Telegraph Company, Philadelphia, and received orders from H. E. Thayer, Manager, to hold myself in readiness for important duty in the course of an hour. Before that time had expired, Mr. Thayer asked me if I had any objections to fix the wires of another company so as to prevent any communications passing over them. I answered I would not in some cases. Mr. Thayer then stated that the life of President Lincoln was in great danger, and that he (Mr. Thayer) wanted some good man he could depend upon to cut the wires between Harrisburg and Baltimore. I replied, under that circumstance I would. He then gave me orders to proceed to Harrisburg in the next train in company with W. P. Westervelt, Superintendent. We proceeded to Harrisburg with necessary tools, fine copper wire, etc. Arriving in Harrisburg, we met Capt. Burns. We three then proceeded to the office of the telegraph company, and I traced the wires through the city and found the wires that were necessary to cut. Capt. Burns, W. P. Westervelt and myself walked south of the city about two miles. I then climbed the pole and put fine copper ground wire on wires between Harrisburg and Baltimore, which prevented all communication passing over them. I then returned to telegraph office in Harrisburg and asked the operator there to send a message for me to Baltimore—when the operator stated he could not, as all communication with Baltimore was cut off. I reported the fact to

Capt. Burns and W. P. Westervelt. They thanked me, and requested me to stay in Harrisburg that night and return to Philadelphia next morning, which I did. When I returned I met Mr. Thayer. He told me he had been on duty all night so as to prevent any communication passing over the wires of the American Company. I received his thanks for the part which I had taken.

The foregoing is a truthful statement of what passed.

Yours respectfully,

ANDREW WYNNE.



THE BALTIMORE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE ABRAHAM LINCOLN. 123

which, though they yield a ready obedience to the will, become so facile of motion that they often act without awaiting a command. In fact, their action in the direction to which they are most accustomed becomes at last so continuous as to give a permanent form to the features. Hence it is essential to the beauty of the visage to avoid grimaces, or what children call "making faces." These if indulged in without check in childhood will leave a fixed impression of distortion upon the countenance. Our purpose has been merely to treat of those elements of beauty which lie no deeper than the skin. The others, of a profounder kind, which, moreover, are not without their influence even upon surface charms, must be learned from those who profess to teach the higher graces of the heart and intellect. The beauty which we cultivate is that likened by Lord Bacon to summer fruits, which are easy to corrupt and can not last. They, on the contrary, raise flowers of an immortal bloom.

THE BALTIMORE PLOT  
TO ASSASSINATE ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THE veil of mystery has never yet been lifted from the evidence disclosing the plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln, on his contemplated passage through Baltimore, on the 23d of February, 1861. Considerations affecting the personal safety of those by whom the conspiracy was detected prevented a disclosure at the time. The subsequent assassination of Mr. Lincoln, and the disclosures connected with the trial and conviction of Booth's associates, removed any doubt in regard to the real existence of the plot.

The truth may now be disclosed, and the public desire to know the exact facts upon which Mr. Lincoln acted may now be gratified. The circumstances detailed in this article are taken from the records of Allan Pinkerton, the Chief Detective, and are selected from the reports written out daily at the time, by those engaged in the investigation, and they are believed by the writer of this article to be true.

The election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency was immediately seized upon by the reckless conspirators, who had long been plotting the overthrow of the Union, as a pretext upon which to consummate their designs. They at once employed all the machinery of popular agitation to create a public opinion, and "fire the Southern heart," so that it would sanction the deeds of violence and outrage which they contemplated. Through the press, by popular meetings, public speeches, and in social intercourse, and in every possible way they painted the alleged wrongs of the South, the outrages past and anticipated of the North, to inflame and excite the inflammable Southern temperament, until the slaveholding States became a great seething volcano. Especial efforts were made to render Mr. Lincoln personally odious and contemptible. No falsehood was too gross,

no lie too infamous, no statement too exaggerated to be used for this purpose. These means were resorted to with systematic concert, until the mass of the people in the slave States were made to believe that this pure, patient, humane, Christian statesman was a monster, whose vices and passions made him odious, and whose habits made him an object of just abhorrence.

Maryland, a border State, occupied a position of peculiar importance, and great efforts were made to bring her within the control of secession. Emissaries were sent to her from South Carolina and elsewhere, and nothing left undone to secure her co-operation in their revolutionary movements. These efforts were too successful; still there were many bold spirits who gathered around that intrepid leader, Henry Winter Davis, resolved to stand by the Union at all hazards. But a majority of the wealthier classes, and those in office, with few exceptions, were in sympathy with the rebellion, and the spirit of treason for a time swept like a tornado over the State.

On the 11th of February Mr. Lincoln, with a few of his personal friends, left his quiet, modest home to enter upon that tempestuous political career which carried him to a martyr's grave. With a dim, mysterious foreshadowing of the future, he uttered to his friends and neighbors his sad farewell. He seemed to be conscious that he might see the place, which had been his home for a quarter of a century, where "his children were born," and where one of them lies buried, no more. Conscious of the great duties which devolved upon him, greater than those devolving upon any President since Washington, he humbly expressed his reliance upon "Divine Providence, and asked his friends to pray that he might receive the assistance of Almighty God."

As he journeyed toward the Capital, received every where with the earnest sympathies of the people, his spirits rose, and when he pronounced "good-by" to the Prairie State, at the State line, he said, "Behind the cloud the sun is shining still." And on he sped, through the great free States of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, to fulfill his great mission.

There was living at this time in Chicago a man by the name of Allan Pinkerton, one of the boldest, most shrewd, and skillful detectives of any country. He had always been a thorough anti-slavery man, a superintendent of the "underground railroad," a friend and companion of Lovejoy and the "old guard" of early abolitionists in Illinois. With his anti-slavery character well known, such was his reputation as a detective that Mr. Guthrie, when Secretary of the Treasury, had, notwithstanding, employed him as a Government detective. In 1860-61 he was in the employ of the railroad companies of the Northwest.

In the winter of 1861 General Scott, seeing the gathering storm, called to Washington a few national troops. The passage of these over the



Northern Central and Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore railroads greatly exasperated the conspirators in Baltimore and elsewhere, and threats were openly made, and organizations effected, to destroy the railroad tracks, burn their bridges, and the great steam ferry-boat by which the Susquehanna was crossed at Havre de Grace.

In February Pinkerton was employed by the officers of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore road to investigate and ascertain the facts in regard to these matters, with a view of protecting their road. For this purpose he removed to Baltimore, taking with him such of his detective force as he thought best suited to his purpose.

While thus engaged an officer of the road learned that a young gentleman of high social position in Baltimore, the son of a very prominent citizen who had held high official position under the State and National Governments, had declared that he was one of a band who had sworn to take the life of Lincoln on his way to Washington. The officer communicated this fact to Pinkerton, and he immediately asked and obtained permission to investigate this conspiracy. It was now to be plot and counter-plot.

A warm admirer of the President elect, whom he had known in Illinois, Pinkerton determined that, if coolness, courage, and skill could save the life of Mr. Lincoln and prevent the revolution which would follow his violent death, he would accomplish it. His plan was with his detectives to enter Baltimore as residents of Charleston and New Orleans, and by assuming to be secessionists of the most extreme violence, to secure entrance into their secret societies and military organizations, and thus possess themselves of their secret plans. In looking over his corps he found two men admirably adapted to the object he had in view, both young, and both able to assume and successfully carry out the character of a hot-blooded, fiery secessionist. One of these, whom I shall call Howard, was of French descent. He had been carefully educated for a Jesuit priest, and added to his collegiate studies were the advantages of extensive foreign travel and the ability to speak, with great facility, several modern languages; and a knowledge of the South, its localities, prejudices, customs, and leading men, derived from several years' residence in New Orleans and other Southern cities. With these qualifications he possessed a fine personal appearance, insinuating manners, and that power of adaptation to the persons whom they wish to influence, popularly attributed to the Jesuits. Howard was instructed to assume the character of an extreme secessionist, go to a first-class hotel, register his name, and his residence as New Orleans, visit places of amusement, seek the acquaintance and secure the confidence of the young aristocracy of that city; enter their clubs, penetrate their secrets, and learn the wild projects it was

known they were then forming. He was also instructed to make daily reports to his chief, then under an assumed name, occupying an office and nominally carrying on a regular business in Baltimore. Those reports, now lying before me, are curious and interesting. They show that Howard was eminently successful, that he soon became a welcome guest among many of the first families in that old and refined city; that he was a favorite with both sexes, among the ardent and mercurial young aristocracy, which furnished to the rebellion Harry Gilmore, the "French Lady," Stuart, and many other partisans, and in whose circles "Dixie" and "My Maryland" are still mournfully sung over "the lost cause." Many Baltimore belles are living who might innocently blush at the disclosures of the daily reports of one whom, in February, 1861, they called "the fascinating Howard of New Orleans."

Another of Pinkerton's agents was of graver character, one whose devotion to his country in the most perilous and thankless character of a spy, led to his ignominious death at Richmond. I may, therefore, call him by his real name, Timothy Webster. He was adapted to operate on the middle and lower classes of society; of great physical strength and endurance, skilled in all athletic sports, a good shot, and with a strong will and a courage bordering on rashness; yet always justifying his boldness by an ingenuity and fertility of invention which saved him from a thousand perils, and at last falling a victim only because sickness rendered him incapable of executing his otherwise successful plan of escape; a man whose exploits as the Union spy would in daring and romance equal, if not surpass, those of the *Harvey Birch* of Cooper.\*

\* Webster went into the secret service of the Government under the administration of Mr. Lincoln, and, as an illustration of the condition of public feeling after the attack on Fort Sumter, I insert the following incident:

In April he was traveling by railroad from Winchester west, and observed in the car six commissioners or emissaries from South Carolina and Georgia, each of them wearing conspicuously a black and white cockade. They received marked attention from the passengers, and from the people at the stations. Soon the attention of Webster was attracted to a man rather beyond middle age, a planter or farmer, with a most resolute and determined expression of face. He became excited by the cockade gentlemen, known to be rebel agents. He seemed restless and uneasy, and as they passed him would scowl upon them with undisguised hostility. Finally Webster, who sat watching, saw him draw a revolver from his pocket and place it on the seat beside him, and, as the six rebel emissaries approached him, he rose in his seat, took off his hat, and looking sternly at them, exclaimed, "Gentlemen, I am from Tennessee, and I say hurrah for Andrew Jackson and damn all those who would destroy the Union!" and then resumed his seat. The car, filled with men, was silent, every one expecting a fight. Several gentlemen approached the man, but after looking in his face passed on in silence. Soon after three other rebel agents wearing cockades came in. Rising again, and stepping on the seat, he raised his hat and again exclaimed, still more pointedly, "Hurrah for Andrew Jackson and damn all men who wear cockades!" Several persons sitting near



There were other agents, and among them a Mrs. Warn, a lady whom the chivalry of the Monumental City would then have pronounced as "fascinating" as some of their fair friends did Howard.

By the 15th of February Pinkerton's machinery was fairly in running order; his agents in full communion with the clubs and secret societies of Baltimore, so that an interview was planned and brought about between Howard's chief and a Captain Fernandina, one of the most active of the conspirators. Fernandina was an Italian, or of Italian descent. He had lived in the South for many years, and was thoroughly possessed of the idea of Southern wrongs, and that the South had been outraged by the election of Lincoln; and, educated with Italian ideas, he justified the use of the stiletto and assassination as a means of preventing the President elect from taking his seat in the Executive chair. He was an enthusiast and a fanatic. In the interview with Fernandina, which took place at — saloon, in the presence of some of the military company which he commanded—his lieutenant and others in their confidence—in the course of the conversation Fernandina, believing he was addressing a thorough secessionist, said: "Lincoln shall never, never be President. My life," said he, "is of no consequence. I am willing to give it for his. I will sell my life for that of that abolitionist. As Orsini gave his life for Italy, I am ready to die for the rights of the South."

Some one present remarked, "Are there no means of saving the South except by assassination?" "No," said he; "you might as well try to blow down the Washington monument with your breath as to change our purpose—*die he must and shall*; and," he added, turning to Captain T—, a co-conspirator, "we will, if necessary, all die together. Every captain will in that day prove himself a hero. The first shot fired, the head traitor Lincoln dead, and all Maryland will be with us and the South freed. Mr. H—," said he, turning to Pinkerton, "if I alone must do it I shall not hesitate! Lincoln shall die in this city!"

The next day Pinkerton met the same Captain T—, one of Fernandina's associates, who called Pinkerton aside and whispered: "It is determined that that G—d d—d Lincoln shall never pass through here alive! The d—d abolitionist shall never set foot on Southern soil but to find a grave." He added: "I have seen Colonel Kane, Chief of Police, and he is all

him rose and left the car, not caring to be present at the expected fight. Directly four rather rough-looking men came and took the vacant seats near him. They were his neighbors from East Tennessee. A crowd of men, with those wearing cockades, gathered at each end of the car. He rose the third time, and stepping into the passage, looking first at one end and then the other, he took off his hat and said, "I say hurrah for Andrew Jackson and damn all traitors who wear cockades!" Such was the determination expressed in his eye and bearing that none assailed him. The cockade men all left and were no more seen in the car or on the train.

right, and in one week from to-day the North shall want a new President, for Lincoln will be dead."

Among the associates of Howard he meets with a fast young gentleman by the name of Hill, who proudly exhibits a gold Palmetto badge, and represents himself as a lieutenant in the Palmetto Guards, a secret military organization in Baltimore. Howard, the ardent secessionist from New Orleans, chiding the slower and more cautious action of the friends in Maryland, and Hill, of the Palmetto Guards, become bosom friends. They drink, go to concerts, theatres, and other places of amusement together. Hill, who has social position in Baltimore, introduces his accomplished friend from Louisiana, and finally opens to him, in part, the secrets of the plot to assassinate Lincoln. He himself goes into it with reluctance. "What a pity," says he to Howard, "that this glorious Union must be destroyed all on account of that monster Lincoln!"

The plan was to excite and exasperate the popular feeling against Mr. Lincoln to the utmost. On the published programme he was to enter Baltimore from Harrisburg on the 23d of February by the Northern Central Railroad, and would reach Baltimore about the middle of the day. A vast crowd would meet him at the Calvert Street dépôt, at which it was expected he would take an open carriage, and ride, nearly a mile and a half, to the Washington dépôt. It would be very easy for a determined man to shoot him on his passage. Agents of the conspirators had been in the principal Northern cities, watching the movements of the Presidential party, ready to telegraph to Baltimore any change of route. A cipher was agreed upon, so that the conspirators could communicate with each other without the facts leaking out through the telegraph offices. Meanwhile the idea of assassination preyed upon the mind of Hill; he grew sad and melancholy, and plunged still deeper into dissipation. Howard is his constant companion and confidential friend, his "shadow," in the language of the profession; at times he is thoughtful, and then he breaks out into rhapsodies. He talks to Howard of dreams and death. "I am destined to die," said Hill, "shrouded with glory. If a man had the nerve he could immortalize himself by plunging a knife into Lincoln's heart. Let us," said he, "have another Brutus. I swear," said he, "I will kill Lincoln before he reaches the Washington dépôt, not that I love Lincoln less, but my country more. I am ready to do the deed, and then I will proudly announce my name, and say: 'Gentlemen, arrest me, I am the man;' and then I will be called one 'that gave his country liberty.' When our company draws lots, if the *red ballot* falls to me, I will do it willingly. Perhaps," said he, "Lincoln may conclude to come by way of Havre de Grace; if so, the ferry-boat across the Susquehanna will be the best place to do the deed. I will go out there and kill him if it is so ordered." Not-

withstanding his contemplated crime he had some good traits; he was warmly attached to his mother, spoke tenderly of her, and talked to Howard of pecuniary provision being made for her, if he should sacrifice his life in the enterprise.

Webster had gone to Perrymansville, and, securing the confidence of the secessionists there, had joined a military company which was drilling with a view of destroying the railroads, burning the bridges, and the ferry-boat on the Susquehanna.

The time for Mr. Lincoln's passage through Baltimore was rapidly approaching, but the exact plan of operation by the conspirators had not been agreed upon. The popular feeling against him had, through the press, and by harangues, and all the means by which the public mind is operated upon, been inflamed and exasperated to the highest pitch. Thousands of the more ignorant had been wrought upon by the intelligent until they were ready for any act of violence and atrocity. The leaders finally fully determined that the assassination should take place at the Calvert Street dépôt. A vast crowd of secessionists was to assemble at that place and await the arrival of the train with Mr. Lincoln. They were to go early and fill the narrow streets and passages immediately surrounding it. It was known among the leaders that George P. Kane, the Marshal of Police, subsequently arrested by General Banks, and afterward an officer in the rebel army, would detail but a small police force to attend the arrival and nominally clear, and protect a passage for Mr. Lincoln and his suite, and that that small force would be sympathizers with the secessionists. When the train should enter the dépôt, and Mr. Lincoln should attempt to pass through the narrow passage leading to the street, some roughs were to raise a row on the outside, and all the police were to rush away to quell the disturbance. At this moment, the police being withdrawn, Mr. Lincoln would find himself in a dense, excited, and hostile crowd, hustled and jammed, and then the fatal blow was to be struck. A swift steamer was to be stationed in Chesapeake Bay, with a boat concealed, ready to take the assassin on board as soon as the deed was done, and convey him to a Southern port, where he would have been received with acclamations and honored as a hero. But who should do the bloody deed? It was feared by some that Hill lacked the nerve and coolness. To determine this question, a meeting of the conspirators was held on the night of the 18th of February. Some twenty persons were collected, each of whom had taken an oath of secrecy, and also sworn, if designated, that he would take the life of the President elect. It was arranged that ballots should be prepared and placed in a hat, and that the person who drew a red ballot should be the assassin. The drawing was made in a darkened room, so that none could know who drew the fatal ballot except he who had it, and no one was to disclose

to the others the color of the ballot he drew. And now the leaders, to make success more certain, placed *eight red ballots* in the hat, and eight red ballots were drawn, each man drawing one believing that upon his courage, strength, and skill alone depended what he regarded as the cause of the South, each supposing that he alone was charged with the execution of the deed.

The weapons and the mode of death were to be left to the person who drew the *red ballot*.

A knowledge of all these facts having been obtained by Pinkerton, he on the night of February 20 hastened to meet the Presidential party at Philadelphia.

While these plots had been going on, Mr. Lincoln and his friends, unconscious of danger, were pursuing their journey toward the Capital. Vast crowds had every where assembled to welcome and congratulate him, and pledge to him their support in the maintenance of the integrity of the Republic, its Constitution and laws. At Philadelphia Mr. Pinkerton met the Presidential party, and laid before Mr. Judd, of Chicago, a confidential personal friend of Mr. Lincoln, in detail the facts in regard to the conspiracy. Assassination was then a crime scarcely known in the United States, and assassination for political reasons was almost incredible. It is a sad commentary on the wickedness of the rebellion that a plot to assassinate a prominent public man would to-day be credited upon far less evidence than before the war. Conscious of the existence of the plot; knowing the trustworthiness of those from whom he derived his information; knowing that the train was laid, that the mine would be sprung as surely as Mr. Lincoln should reach the city of Baltimore; that the assassins of the *red ballot* were even now on his track and waiting the fatal moment; that the police of Baltimore, under control of Marshal Kane, would act in concert with the conspirators; that a vast mob, wild, savage, and blood-thirsty, was organized and ready to act their part, the character of which was not long after fully disclosed by the attack upon and murder of the Massachusetts soldiers on their march to Washington;\* yet, knowing all this, Pinkerton feared he should have difficulty in inducing Mr. Lincoln to adopt measures to secure his safety. The President elect was an unsuspecting man.

\* If there are any who have hitherto entertained doubts of Mr. Lincoln's peril, the facts set forth in this article will doubtless remove them. The circumstances set forth in Mr. Pinkerton's records should be read with a recollection of the disclosures on the trial of Booth's associates. And it should be also remembered that a few days after Mr. Lincoln's passage through Baltimore, this same mob, under the instigation of the same leaders, attacked and killed not less than four, and wounded many others, of the Massachusetts Sixth on their passage through Baltimore. What had these soldiers done to excite that mob, as compared with their exasperated feelings toward Mr. Lincoln? Would a mob that attacked a regiment of armed men have been deterred from attacking one man, whom they regarded as a tyrant and the chief object of their hatred?



After laying the matter in all its details before Judd, and satisfying him of the existence of the plot, and of the extreme peril Mr. Lincoln would incur by attempting to pass through Baltimore according to the programme, Pinkerton and Judd had an interview with the President elect, and laid the matter before him. On the night of the 21st February, after the interview, Mr. Pinkerton made this entry in his journal:

"While Mr. Judd detailed the circumstances of the conspiracy, Mr. Lincoln listened very attentively, but did not say a word, nor did his countenance, which I closely watched, show any emotion. He was thoughtful, serious, but decidedly firm."

Pinkerton then, himself, went over the ground, detailing to Mr. Lincoln all the facts connected with Fernandina, Hill, and others, the condition of popular feeling, and the plans of the assassins; also the fact that Kane, Chief of Police, had declared that he would give him no "*police escort*." He told him there were perhaps ten or fifteen desperadoes—wild, enthusiastic young men—who had been wrought up to a pitch of fanaticism, in which they really believed they would be patriots and martyrs in taking his life, even at the cost of their own; that they had bound themselves by oaths to assassinate him; that a vast, excited crowd would meet him at the *dépôt* of the Northern Central Railroad, a fight would be got up in the crowd, and this would be the signal for the attack on his person, and in the *mêlée* a dozen desperate men, armed with revolvers and dirks, each sworn to take his life, would be upon his path, and that he, Mr. Pinkerton, felt a moral conviction that he could not pass from the Calvert Street *dépôt* to the Washington *dépôt*, a mile and a half, in an open carriage, alive. Both Judd and Pinkerton pressed these and other corroborating facts upon him with all the power which they possessed. He remained silent a few moments, and it was suggested that he should change the programme, and take the night train for Washington that very night. Mr. Judd said to him: "These proofs can not be now made public, as the publication of the facts would involve the lives of several of Mr. Pinkerton's force, and, among others, the life of Webster, serving in a rebel company under drill, at Perryman's, in Maryland." Some other conversation was held between him and Mr. Judd, in regard to the construction which would be placed upon his conduct if he changed the programme and went directly to Washington. Mr. Judd then asked, "Will you, upon any statement which can be made, consent to leave for Washington on to-night's train?" Mr. Lincoln promptly replied, "No, I can not consent to do this. I shall hoist the flag on Independence Hall to-morrow morning (Washington's birthday), and go to Harrisburg to-morrow, and meet the Legislature of Pennsylvania; then I shall have fulfilled all my engagements. After this, if you (Judd), and you, Allan (Pinkerton), think there is pos-

itive danger in my attempting to go through Baltimore openly, according to the published programme—if you can arrange any way to carry out your purposes, I will place myself in your hands." "Mr. Lincoln," says Pinkerton, "said this with a tone and manner so decisive, we saw that no more was to be said."

It was finally arranged between Judd, Pinkerton, and the officers of the Pennsylvania Railroad that a special train should leave Harrisburg at 6 P.M. the next evening, and bring Mr. Lincoln to Philadelphia in time to take the 11 o'clock train going through Baltimore to Washington, on the night of the 22d. This train was to be detained until Mr. Lincoln arrived; every contingency, in regard to the connection of the trains and possible delays, was most skillfully planned, so as to secure connections and the certainty of going through on time.

Meanwhile, to prevent this change being telegraphed to Baltimore by a confederate, or information of this change of route being known, and leaking out in any way, the Superintendent of the Telegraph Company, at the instance of Mr. Pinkerton, sent a practical telegraph climber to isolate Harrisburg from telegraphic communication with all the world until Mr. Lincoln should reach Washington.

On the morning of the 22d February Mr. Lincoln visited old "Independence Hall," and with his own hand raised over it the flag. His speech on this occasion was the most impressive and characteristic of any which he made on his journey to the Capital. He gave most eloquent expression to the emotions and associations suggested by the day and place. He declared that all his political sentiments were drawn from those which had been expressed in that Hall. He alluded most feelingly to the dangers, and toils, and sufferings of those who had adopted and made good the Declaration of Independence: that declaration which gave promise that "in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men." Conscious of the dangers which threaten his country, and that those dangers originated in opposition to the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and knowing that his own life was even now threatened for his devotion to liberty, and that his way to the National Capital was beset by assassins, yet he did not hesitate to declare "that he would rather be assassinated on the spot than surrender those principles."

During the same night on which Pinkerton's disclosures were made to Mr. Lincoln, F. W. Seward, Esq., arrived at Philadelphia, having been sent by his father to warn him of the danger which was awaiting him at Baltimore. Facts had come to the knowledge of Secretary Seward and General Scott, corroborating the evidence which had been accumulated by Mr. Pinkerton of the existence of the conspiracy. This circumstance rendered Mr. Lincoln less reluctant than he had been to consent to the arrangements for his passage through Baltimore on the night of the 22d.



Mr. Lincoln on the same day, the 22d of February, went to Harrisburg, was cordially received by Governor Curtin and the Legislature, and a vast crowd of citizens. At six o'clock an engine and one passenger-car were standing on the track leading to Philadelphia. Soon after, excusing himself on the ground of fatigue, he left the dinner-table, went to his room, changed his dress for a traveling-suit, and, with a broad-brimmed felt-hat (which had been presented to him in New York), he went quietly to a side-door, got into a carriage in waiting, and was driven, with one companion, Ward H. Lamon, rapidly to the car which awaited him, and was soon speeding on toward Philadelphia. The secret of his departure was known to but very few, and by them disclosed to no one. On his arrival at Philadelphia Mr. Lincoln was met by Mr. Pinkerton, taken into a carriage and driven to the dépôt of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, Mr. Pinkerton timing their arrival so as to reach the train just at the moment of departure.

The officers of the road, to prevent the possibility of the departure of the train before Mr. Lincoln was aboard, had instructed the conductor not to leave until he received a package of important Government dispatches, "which must go through to Washington that night." Mr. Pinkerton had caused the three sections of the sleeping-car, which was on the end of the train, to be taken, and his agent stood at the door, which was locked, awaiting the arrival of the party. When the party appeared the door was opened, Mr. Lincoln stepped in, went to his berth; an officer of the road handed the package of Government dispatches—consisting of some numbers of the New York *Herald*, carefully sealed up and addressed to the Secretary

of State—and instantly the whistle sounded and the train was whirling on toward Washington, bearing in security not "Cæsar and his fortunes," but Lincoln and the destinies of the republic.

So skillfully had the matter been arranged that no one in Philadelphia had seen Mr. Lincoln, no one saw him enter the car, no one on the train except the party of the President, not even the conductor, knew of his presence in the car. When the conductor came along to examine the tickets Mr. Pinkerton showed him Mr. Lincoln's ticket, and he did not look into his berth. At Havre de Grace Pinkerton was signaled by Webster that "All's well;" and from there to Baltimore, at every bridge-crossing, standing on the rear platform of the last car, he could see a man spring up as the train passed on, and show a white light from the dark lantern hanging in his belt, which meant, "All's well." Reaching Baltimore at about half past three in the morning, Mr. Stearns, the Superintendent of the road, entered the car, and whispered in the ear of Pinkerton the welcome words, "All's well." That city, which the conspirators had planned to make that day the scene of a tragedy as infamous as that of Wilkes Booth, was now in profound repose; and the assassins of the *red ballot* little dreaming that their intended victim was passing on to the protecting bayonets of General Scott. Nothing occurred to interrupt or delay the passage, and at six in the morning of the 23d they reached Washington, where at the dépôt they were met by some of the President's Illinois friends.

Pinkerton had told Mr. Lincoln at Philadelphia he would answer with his life for his safe arrival in Washington, and he had redeemed his pledge.

*Isaac Arnold*

## Editor's Easy Chair.

THE question is, whether Senator Sumner, if he were invited to dine in Belgravia, would wear a shooting-jacket and India rubber boots. And if Senator Sumner would not wear an improper costume when he dines with the Duke of Argyle, why should Minister Adams when he goes to the Queen's ball? Senator Sumner would decline to dress upon such an occasion as an utterly ignorant boor might dress; and Mr. Adams declined upon *his* occasion to dress as the waiters dress. Mr. Adams is undoubtedly the representative of his country, and his country is supposed—we say supposed theoretically—to cultivate simplicity of manners. But what is simplicity of manners? In the matter of costume it is to dress appropriately. Social custom settles it. A black silk cravat, with no white collar surmounting or overlaying it, is a perfectly innocent article of attire. But to wear it when every body else wears a white linen cravat, with much white shirt collar, is to show yourself ignorant, or worse.

If you insist that another person shall commit the same folly, he will very properly prefer to stay at home. So Mr. Adams did not go to the Queen's ball.

Social custom ordains that we shall eat our dinners with the aid of knives and forks, and not tear our food with our fingers. If you despise knives and forks—if you think them a weak and cowardly luxury—you may take a pick-axe and shovel to your dinner, if you will; but you will hardly be invited into decent society again. In China, which is a highly civilized country, chopsticks are preferred to knives and forks by high society. Suppose that the Government of the United States had apprised Mr. Burlingame that the severity of democratic principles required that he should use nothing but his pocket-knife in partaking of state banquets. Perhaps in China they are tolerant, and if a visitor prefers jack-knives to chopsticks, they are not troubled. But England is not tolerant. England insists that a

# CONSPIRATORS FRUSTRATED

How President-Elect Lincoln Was Saved from Possible Assassination at Baltimore.

Had Timely Warning of An Alleged Conspiracy and Changed His Plans—Reminiscences of the Rebellion.

## THE WARNING TO LINCOLN,

Which Led to His Night Passage Through Baltimore in 1861.

From a Union College Address by Frederick W. Seward, February 21.

1902  
On Thursday, the 21st of February, (just forty-one years ago today), I was in the gallery of the senate chamber at Washington when a page came to me with a message that Senator Seward wanted to see me. I went down and found him in the lobby. He showed me a note he had just received from General Scott. The general was then at the head of the army. Under his command Col. Charles P. Stone was organizing such troops as there were then in Washington, to prevent any outbreak or riot in the city, on or before inauguration day. In his note he said he had some information about a dangerous conspiracy to mob, attack and kill the president-elect when passing through Baltimore. There would be ample opportunity. The mass of the people there were unfriendly to him. There would be a long delay in getting from one railroad station to the other. There would be crowds, hurly-burly and excitement. An armed conspirator could easily get near enough to the president-elect to fire a revolver at him, and then escape in the subsequent confusion.

My father handed me General Scott's letter inclosed in or that he had just written to Mr. Lincoln. He said: "Whether this story is well founded or not, Mr. Lincoln ought to know of it at once. But I know of no reason to doubt it. General Scott is impressed with the belief that the danger is real. Colonel Stone has facilities for knowing, and is not apt to exaggerate. I want you to go by the first train. Find Mr. Lincoln, wherever he is. Let no one else know your errand. I have written to him that I think he should change his arrangements and pass through Baltimore at a different hour. I know it may occasion some embarrassment and perhaps some ill-natured talk. Nevertheless, I would strongly advise him to do it."

Of course, I took the next train to Philadelphia. On the way I learned that the president-elect would spend the night at the Continental hotel and would be serenaded in the evening. It was 10 o'clock when I reached there. The street was crowded with people. The hotel brilliant with lights. Music and cheering made the scene a festive one. The halls and stairways were full of people. In the parlors were throngs of ladies and gentlemen who had called to pay their respects to the new president. Presentations seemed to be going on. Certainly this was no time for the delivery of my secret message.

On inquiry, I found a room at the head of the stairs, said to be occupied by Robert Lincoln, the president's son. I had never met him, but I understood that he was intending to be a Harvard student, and I was not surprised to find him surrounded by a group of young men chatting and laughing. Introducing myself, he gave me a cordial greeting, and introduced me to Colonel Ward H. Lamon, his father's law partner. Colonel Lamon took my arm and proposed to go at once into the parlor to present me to Mr. Lincoln. When I told him my interview must be a private one, and attract as little attention as possible, he laughed and said: "Then I think I had better take you to his bedroom. If you don't mind waiting there, you'll be sure to meet him,

for he has got to go there some time to-night, and it is the only place I know of where he will likely be alone." This was just the opportunity I desired. Thanking the colonel, I sat and waited an hour or two in the quiet room while the noise and bustle were going on outside.

At last I heard Col. Lamon coming down the hall with Mr. Lincoln. I had never before seen him, but his portraits in the newspapers and on the campaign banners had made his face seem familiar. I could not but notice how correctly they had given his features and how entirely they had failed to give his careworn look and his pleasant, kindly smile. After exchange of a few words of greeting, I told him of my errand, and gave him the letter I had brought. He sat down by the table under the gaslight to read it. Naturally one might have expected that its contents would startle him. But he made no exclamation and I saw no sign of surprise in his face. He read it carefully through—then held it up to the light and deliberately read it through a second time. Then he paused a moment in thought, and said: "Did you hear anything about the way this information was obtained? Do you know anything as to how they got it?"

No, I had heard nothing in regard to it till that morning, when called down by my father from the senate gallery.

"Your father and Gen. Scott do not say who they think are concerned in it. Do you think they know?"

On that point, too, I could give no additional information further than my impression that my father's knowledge of it was limited to what had been communicated to him by Col. Stone, in whose statements he had implicit confidence.

"Did you ever hear any names mentioned? Did you, for instance, ever hear anything said about such a name as Pinkerton?"

No, I had heard no such name in connection with the matter—no name at all, in fact, except those of Gen. Scott and Col. Stone.

He thought a moment and then said: "I may as well tell you why I ask. There were stories or rumors some time ago, before I left home, about people who were intending to do me a mischief. I never attached much importance to them—never wanted to believe any such thing. So I never would do anything about them in the way of taking precautions and the like. Some of my friends, though, thought differently—Judd and others—and without my knowledge they employed a detective to look into the matter. It seems he has occasionally reported what he found, and only today, since we arrived at this house, he brought this story, or something like it, about an attempt on my life in the confusion and hurly-burly of the reception at Baltimore." "Surely, Mr. Lincoln," said I, "that is a strong corroboration of the news I bring you."

He smiled and shook his head. "That is exactly why I was asking you about names. If different persons, not knowing of each other's work, have been pursuing separate clues that led to the same result, why, then it shows there may be something in it. But if this is only the same story, filtered through two channels and reaching me in two ways, then that don't make it any stronger. Don't you see?"

The logic was unanswerable. But I asserted my strong belief that the two investigations had been conducted independently of each other, and urged that there was enough of probability to make it prudent to adopt the suggestion and make slight changes in hour and train that would avoid all risk.

After a little further discussion of the matter, Mr. Lincoln rose and said: "Well, we haven't got to decide it to-night anyway, and I see it is getting late."

Then noticing that I looked disappointed at the reluctance to regard the warning, he said kindly; "You need not think I will not consider it well. I shall think it over carefully, and try to decide it right; and I will let you know in the morning."

The next morning was Washington's birthday. Mr. Lincoln went early to the old Independence hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed, to take part in the ceremony of raising the

flag there. He made a brief address. In it there was a sentence that had deeper meaning than its auditors imagined. Adverting to the principle embodied in the Declaration of Independence, he said: "If this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say that I would rather be assassinated on the spot than surrender it." Soon after breakfast he let me know that he would make the change in his plans as he had been advised.

He made his visit to Harrisburg, and then hastened back to Philadelphia, and taking the night train went on quietly and unrecognized, passing through Baltimore several hours before the time he was expected there, and thus frustrated the plans of the conspirators.

I had telegraphed to my father, using a word previously agreed upon. So on Saturday morning, he and E. B. Washburne were at the railroad station in Washington to greet Mr. Lincoln and Col. Lamon as they stepped from the train on its arrival.



## MAN WHO SAVED LIFE OF LINCOLN IS DYING

Henry Fletcher Kenney, President's Guardian Here, is Critically Ill.

### GOT SOLDIERS SOUTH

Harry Fletcher Kenney, former superintendent of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad Company, who is credited with having saved the life of President Lincoln when there was a plan on foot to assassinate him in this city, is dying of pneumonia at his home in Ridley Park. He has been in a precarious condition for several days, and his death is hourly expected.

It was Mr. Kenney who had charge of the transportation of Union soldiers to the South during the Civil War, when the general headquarters of the railroad were located at Broad street and Washington avenue. He virtually "grew up" with the company, with which he was connected in various capacities for more than thirty years.

The day after President Lincoln raised the flag over the State House, he started on his journey back to Washington. Rumors of threats to kill Mr. Lincoln had been rife for several weeks previous, and extra precautions were taken to prevent any injury to him.

When all was ready for the train bearing Mr. Lincoln to start, Kenney ordered the telegraph wires between this city and Washington cut, so that no communication could be had between the would-be murderers.

Then, suspecting that possibly the engineer of the train which was to carry the President might be in league with the assassins, Mr. Kenney called him into his office. He told the engineer that the first coach contained a number of important state papers, which were to be delivered intact at Washington, and ordered him to see that no one entered the car.

This precaution was taken, and when Washington was reached out stepped Mr. Lincoln from the first coach. In a few minutes he was safe in the White House.



SPRINGFIELD, O.  
NEWS  
FEB. 8, 1861

## How Lincoln Narrowly Escaped Assassination

In the mass of Lincoln material which has been printed in view of the approaching centenary, there has been nothing more valuable or original printed by any newspaper or magazine in the United States than an article of great value which will be printed in the Daily News on Sunday morning.

The article is composed of personal reminiscences of Lincoln told by Mrs. W. T. Coggeshall, now of Vienna, this

county, who has access to the great mass of material gained by her husband, the late W. T. Coggeshall, who was a friend of Lincoln, and who made the journey from Columbus to Washington with him when he was about to be inaugurated for the first time.

The article is about a secret of history that has never been told, but which nearly made February 22, 1861, the most fatal in American annals.

# ALLAN PINKERTON'S LINCOLN STORY

How the Then President-Elect Was Saved From Assassination in Baltimore by the Plotters of '61 on His Way to His Inauguration, as Told in "The Spy of the Rebellion,"

*The Morning Telegraph*  
2-12-09

THE fact that the plot to assassinate Lincoln at Ford's Theatre, Washington, in 1865 achieved its object has thrown into the background of history the plot hatched for the same purpose in Baltimore in 1861. The part played therein by Allan Pinkerton, the noted Chicago detective, has been told by himself in the book, "The Spy of the Rebellion." His account of the measures he so successfully took to frustrate that plot may be summarized briefly as follows:

On receiving vague reports that a conspiracy was afoot Pinkerton perfected plans for having several of his men, together with himself, announced as residents of Charleston and New Orleans, and, by assuming to be secessionists of the most ultra type, to secure entrance into their secret societies. He selected in particular one whom he calls in his book Joseph Howard, a young man of fine personal appearance and manners. He had a thorough knowledge of the South, its prejudices, customs and leading men, derived from several years' residence in New Orleans.

Barnum's Hotel in Baltimore appeared to be the favorite resort of the Southern element and, as this hotel was so largely patronized by the so-called "fire-eaters," Howard was instructed to go there in order to secure quarters and to ingratiate himself with these extremists. It was not long after this that, joining a company of gentlemen who were loudly declaiming against the ruling powers of the country, he entered into their discussion and by blatant expressions of the most rebellious nature was warmly welcomed by the coterie and instantly made one of their number.

## Won Kane's Confidence.

Howard gradually neared the circle of which Marshal George P. Kane appeared to be the leader, and in a short time succeeded in entirely winning his confidence. Accepting Mr. Kane's invitation, he one evening accompanied that gentleman to a meeting of a secret society and was surprised at the many familiar faces which greeted him.

The leader and president of this society was Captain Fernandina, one of the most active of the conspirators and an individual who at one time occupied the position of barber at Barnum's Hotel.

He was an enthusiast and fanatic, a dangerous man in any crisis and particularly so in the one now impending, which threatened a civil war and all its direful consequences.

He openly justified the use of the stiletto and fiercely advocated assassination as the means of preventing the President-elect from taking his seat in the executive chair.

At this meeting Fernandina delivered an address, which for its treasonable nature and its violent opposition to all laws, human and divine, has scarcely a parallel. He boldly advocated the doctrine of State rights; he fiercely denounced the party which had succeeded in obtaining power; he inveighed in violent language against the policy of the so-called Abolitionists. The excitement became intense. Faces were eagerly turned toward him.

As he proceeded he drew from his breast a long, glittering knife and, waving it aloft, exclaimed:

"This hireling Lincoln shall never be President! My life is of no consequence in a cause like this, and I am willing to give my life for his."

Upon these facts being conveyed by Howard next morning to Pinkerton, the latter resolved to interview Fernandina himself. Howard introduced his employer as a resident of Georgia and an earnest worker in the cause of secession. Fernandina welcomed him as a brother and soon the subject of the assassination was brought up and freely discussed.

It was learned that the conspirators were first to excite the popular feeling against Lincoln to the utmost. From the published programme Lincoln was to reach Baltimore from Harrisburg on Feb. 23, then only a few days' distant. He would reach the city about noon and a vast crowd would meet him at the Calvert street depot, at which point it was expected he would enter an open carriage and ride nearly half a mile to the Washington station. Here it was arranged with Marshal Kane that but a small force of policemen should be stationed, that a disturbance was to be created as the President-elect arrived which was to attract the attention of the police and that at that moment Lincoln should be shot.

## Watching Lincoln's Movements.

Agents of the conspirators had been dispatched to all the principal Northern cities to watch the movements of the Presidential party, a telegraphic cipher had been arranged and everything had been settled except the selection of the man to strike the blow. This was to be determined by ballot.

As soon as the deed had been accomplished in Baltimore the news was to be telegraphed along the line of the road and immediately upon receiving the news the wires were to be cut, the railroad bridges destroyed and the tracks torn up in order to prevent information reaching the cities of the North until the South was ready for real action.

Wild as the scheme was it found favor, and Pinkerton instructed Howard to insist on being admitted to the drawing of the ballots.

That evening Howard attended the rendezvous and as he entered the darkened chamber he found many of the conspirators already assembled. About twenty men comprised the number, but many entered afterward. After a few preliminary movements, Howard was conducted to the station of the president of the assembly and duly sworn, the members gathering around him in a circle as this was being done.

Having passed through the required formula, Howard was warmly taken by the hand by his associates, many of whom he had met in the polite circles of society. After quiet had been restored, the president, Captain Fernandina, arose and detailed the particulars of the plot.

## Eight Red Ballots in the Box.

A swift steamship was to be stationed in Chesapeake Bay, with a boat waiting upon the shore, ready to take the assassin on board as soon as the deed was done, and convey him to a Southern port.

It was finally determined that ballots should be prepared and placed in a box reserved for that purpose and that the person who drew a red ballot should perform the duty of assassination.

In order that none should know who drew the fatal ballot, except he who did so, the room was rendered still darker and everyone was pledged to secrecy as to the color of the ballot he drew. The leaders, however, had determined that their plans should not fail, and, doubting the courage of some of their number, instead of placing but one red ballot in the box, they placed eight of the designated color, and these eight ballots were drawn—each man who drew one believing that upon him depended the cause of the South.

After the ballot had been drawn the president again addressed the assembly. He violently assailed the enemies of the South and in glowing words pointed out the glory that awaited the man who would prove himself the hero, and finally, amid much restrained enthusiasm, the meeting adjourned.

## Pinkerton Takes a Hand.

The time for action had now arrived, and Pinkerton left for Philadelphia, where he arrived on the same day as the president-elect, and immediately saw Judd, who formed part of the presidential party.

## Lincoln Told of the Plot.

"My advice is," said Pinkerton, after he had succeeded in convincing Judd that his information was reliable, "that Mr. Lincoln shall proceed to Washington this evening by the 11 o'clock train and then, once safe at the Capital, General Scott and his soldiery will afford him ample protection."

"I fear very much that Mr. Lincoln will not accede to this," replied Judd; "but as the President is an old acquaintance and friend of yours suppose you accompany me to the Continental Hotel, and we can then lay this information before him and abide by his decision."

This idea was at once adopted and they proceeded to the hotel. Up to this time Mr. Lincoln had been kept in entire ignorance of any threatened danger. Slowly he went over the points presented, questioning Pinkerton minutely the while, but at length finding it impossible to discredit the truthfulness of what was stated to him, he yielded a reluctant credence of the facts.



Judd then submitted to him the plan of leaving Philadelphia for Washington that evening.

"But," added Judd, "the proofs that have been laid before you cannot be published, as it will involve the lives of several devoted men who are on Mr. Pinkerton's force."

"Well," replied Mr. Lincoln at last, "I can stand anything that is necessary; but," he added, rising to his feet, "I cannot go to-night. I have promised to raise the flag over Independence Hall to-morrow morning and to visit the Legislature at Harrisburg in the afternoon. Beyond that I have no engagements. Any plan that may be adopted that will enable me to fulfill these promises I will accede to, and you can inform me what is concluded upon to-morrow."

Saying which Mr. Lincoln left the room and joined the people in the parlor.

#### Orders Special Train.

From his manner it was deemed useless to attempt to induce him to alter his mind, and after a few minutes' further conversation Pinkerton left for the purpose of finding Thomas A. Scott, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, in order to make arrangements for the carrying out of a plan which would enable Mr. Lincoln to fulfill his engagements.

After the formal reception at Harrisburg had taken place it was arranged that a special train, consisting of a baggage car and one passenger coach, should leave there at 6 o'clock P. M. to carry Lincoln and one companion back to Philadelphia. In order to avoid the possibility of accident the track was to be cleared from 5.30 o'clock until after the passage of the special train.

Pinkerton was to remain in Philadelphia in order that no accident might occur in conveying the President-elect from one station to another and Judd was to manage the affair at Harrisburg.

#### Leaves for Harrisburg.

At the time appointed Lincoln started for Harrisburg. From reports received from Baltimore the excitement in that city had grown more intense and the arrival of the President was awaited with the most feverish impatience. The common and accepted belief was that Lincoln would journey from Harrisburg to Baltimore and over the Northern Central Railroad and the plans of the conspirators were arranged accordingly.

It became a matter of utmost importance, therefore, that no intimation of the movements of Lincoln's party should reach that city. Agents of the conspirators were doubtless following the Presidential party and therefore the telegraph wires, which connected Harrisburg and the neighboring cities were so "fixed" as to render communication impossible.

Lincoln arrived at Harrisburg at noon. After a short time spent in congratulations and handshaking a conference with the President-elect was held in the parlor. At this meeting the information of the discovery of the plot was laid before those present.

"I have thought over this matter since I went over the ground with Mr. Pinkerton last night," said Lincoln, "and the appearance of Frederick Seward, with warning from another source, confirms my belief in Mr. Pinkerton's statement; therefore, unless there are some other reasons than a fear of ridicule, I am disposed to carry out Mr. Judd's plan."

Judge Davis turned to the others and said:

"That settles the matter, gentlemen."

#### Judd's Plan Carried Out.

Having arranged the matter thus satisfactorily, the party at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon repaired to the dining-room for dinner.

The special train, ostensibly to take the officers of the railroad company back to Philadelphia, was waiting upon a sidetrack just outside of the town. The city had been telegraphically isolated.

So carefully had all the movements been conducted that no one in Philadelphia saw Mr. Lincoln enter the car, and no one on the train, except his own immediate party—not even the conductor—knew of his presence, and the President, feeling fatigued from the labors and the journeys of the day, at once retired to his berth.

The party arrived in Washington about 6 in the morning. Lincoln wrapped a shawl about his shoulders and, in company with Mr. Lamon, started to leave the car.

A great many were gathered about the station, but Lincoln entirely escaped recognition.

Thus was Lincoln's life spared to his country for more than four of the most eventful years in its history.



# RECALLS LINCOLN MEMORY

## CAPT. JOHN R. PORTER HELPED RESCUE MARTYR PRESIDENT FROM HARRISBURG MOB.

1910

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE GLOBE-DEMOCRAT.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK., March 5.—Memories of the days when President Lincoln's life was threatened and plans were laid by mobs to prevent his arriving in Washington for the second inaugural services are vividly recalled by Capt. John R. Porter of Centalla, Pa., father of Mrs. Ida Porter-Boyer, state secretary of the Woman's Suffrage League, who is in charge of the state headquarters at the Lee-Huckins in Oklahoma City. Capt. Porter was one of the five men who aided President Lincoln in escaping the mob which had formed at the railroad station to stop his train. His daughter recently repeated the story while discussing the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday.

### Aids Lincoln's Escape.

"Father has often told me the story," said Mrs. Boyer. "He was one of the five men who aided President Lincoln to escape from the mob at Harrisburg, where it has been believed that he escaped disguised. He was at that time transcribing clerk in the House of the Legislature. The other four were President Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad; Alexander McGuire, editor of the Philadelphia Press; Andrew Curtin, the war time governor, and Simon Cameron, who was later a member of Lincoln's cabinet.

"Lincoln was the guest of the mayor of Harrisburg that day, and all arrangements had been made for the train. Word was received by them that plans were on foot to intercept his train when it should arrive at the station. According to the train was run into the freight yards, and there the President of the United States boarded the train for Washington.

"The story had always been told that he escaped in disguise, but he did not. He merely changed hats with Cameron when they left the home of the mayor, who suggested that they do that. Lincoln did not want to do so, but the entreaties of the mayor, who did everything in his power to shield Harrisburg from the disgrace of having the president killed or mobbed on her streets, won, and he consented. He usually wore a large, high-crowned, stiff hat, such as was worn in those days. He exchanged it for Cameron's felt hat."

Capt. Porter is a member of the loyal legion, to which only ranking officers of the war can belong. His commission was the second one signed by Gov. Curtin. He organized his company, had first enlisted for the three months' service, re-enlisted when that term of enlistment expired. He was presented with a sword for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Antietam.

## Lincoln's Wreath of Flowers.

An interesting story has just been revived at Cincinnati. When President and Mrs. Lincoln passed through that city on their way to Washington, a certain kind-hearted old lady determined that there should be one person in Cincinnati to show Mrs. Lincoln the courtesy due her rank, and so she made a magnificent wreath of flowers, extensive, elaborate, beautiful. This she suspended by a frail cord over one of the streets along the proposed route. One end of the cord she held in her hand while seated in a second-story window, on the opposite side of the street sat a friend holding the other end. The plan was to drop the wreath in the lap of Mrs. Lincoln as her carriage passed under it. When that carriage came along, however, Lincoln was in the front part of it, standing up, occasionally bowing his head and waving his hand. His tall form touched the wreath and it dropped over his head and around his neck. The crowd laughed, and the kind lady who had planned to do honor to the wife of the man she so much revered, burst into a flood of tears. These tears were, however, wasted. It was a happy accident. A wreath, not of laurels, but of beautiful fragrant flowers, had been made to deck shoulders which were to bear burdens heavier than had ever been borne by mortal man. Mr. Lincoln smiled at the happy accident, bowed to the involuntary donor, and so reconciled her that her tears were at once wiped away. C. C. G.

### Anecdote of Mrs. Lincoln.

A gentleman who was formerly a resident of Wheeling, W. Va., said: "The anecdote of Lincoln I saw in a recent paper reminds me of an incident connected with Mrs. Lincoln, whose eccentricities are as celebrated as her husband's witticisms. Mrs. Lincoln had a very dear friend in Wheeling, Mrs. Richard J. Dodge, who was at one time a Miss Ridgely of Springfield, where she went to school with Mrs. Lincoln when they were both young girls. On the day following the rapid journey of the president-elect from Harrisburg to Washington, when his friends feared assassination, Mrs. Dodge received from Mrs. Lincoln a bouquet in a paper box, without any explanatory note or card accompanying it. We consulted over this present for some time and finally wrote to Mrs. Lincoln for a solution. She wrote in answer that the bouquet signified the safe arrival of her husband, and meant 'Abe O. K.' You must admit that a woman who could joke over such a matter was certainly eccentric."—May 4, 1887.

What route did Lincoln take in going from his home to Washington in 1861, and why did he not go directly to the Capital? D. J. E.

It was believed by many persons that an attempt would be made to assassinate Lincoln; so his friends persuaded him to go secretly, and by a round-about way, to the Capital. He left Springfield, Ill., on the morning of February 11, 1861, and passed through Toledo and Indianapolis, reaching Cincinnati February 12; Columbus, February 13; Pittsburg, February 14; Cleveland, February 15, and Buffalo, February 16. On February 18 he reached Albany, and on the 19th reached New York, where he took part in a procession, and staid two days. On the 21st he went to Philadelphia, and on Washington's Birthday he raised the flag above Independence Hall in that city. That same day he went to Harrisburg. There word was brought to him that he would be assassinated on the journey from Philadelphia to Washington. He and his friends believed this report; so Lincoln changed his hat and coat, and with two friends returned immediately to Philadelphia, leaving the better known of his friends to take part in the public proceedings at Harrisburg. From Philadelphia he traveled by special train to Washington, reaching the latter city on Saturday, February 23, at about the time he was to have left Harrisburg. The assassination was to have been attempted at Baltimore. Lincoln's special was detained there for some time, but no one paid any unwelcome attention to it. Gen. Scott and Senator Seward sent Frederick Seward to Philadelphia with a message of warning for Lincoln; young Seward found Mr. Lincoln already on the alert. Senator Seward and a friend met Lincoln and his attendants at the station in Washington. His zigzag trip was taken partly to confuse any person having designs against him, but partly also to deliver speeches which he had arranged to make; and in every city he spoke in public on the questions of the hour.

17.94 90

## A MEMORABLE JOURNEY.

1873

### Allan Pinkerton's Account of Lincoln's Arrival at Washington.

The American Magazine prints a long letter written in 1866 by Allan Pinkerton, the famous detective, in which Pinkerton tells to the world for the first time the story of his connection with the plot to assassinate Lincoln at Baltimore on his way to Washington in February, 1861. Pinkerton discovered the plot and saved Lincoln's life. He accompanied Lincoln from Philadelphia to Washington, and of his experiences with Lincoln in the train he writes in part:

"Mr. Lincoln wore an overcoat thrown loosely about his shoulders, without inserting his arm in the sleeves, and a black Kossuth hat, which, he told me, some ardent supporter had presented to him during the campaign. He took a seat with Mr. Lamon and myself, Mr. Kenney, the superintendent of the P. W. and B. railroad, sharing the seat with the driver overhead. As it was too early for us to approach the P. W. and B. depot, Mr. Kenney had the driver take us around the city until it was just about time to reach the depot five minutes after the train was due to leave. We left the carriage at a dark spot a short distance from the depot; and, Mr. Lamon keeping a little in the rear of Mr. Lincoln and myself, the latter leaning upon my arm, and stooping somewhat so as to diminish his height as much as possible, we passed rapidly through the depot, entered the sleeping car, and within two minutes—Mr. Kenney, meanwhile, having delivered the package of valuable papers to the conductor, John Litzburg—the train was in motion, and we were speeding along towards Baltimore. None of the party slept any. At Havre de Grace, on my return inside the car, after having been out to see if my signals were all right, Mr. Lincoln remarked: 'They say we are at Havre de Grace, and are moving along well. I understand we are on time.'

"Although Mr. Lincoln did not sleep, he was by no means restless. I could not then nor have I since been able to understand how anyone, under like circumstances, could have manifested such complete mental composure and cheerful spirits as he exhibited during the entire journey. On arriving at the Baltimore and Ohio depot in Baltimore, we had a wait of about half an hour. Here I again left the car, but remained outside only long enough to satisfy myself that everything was all right. It was now about 4 o'clock. When I returned everybody in the car seemed to be asleep but our party. Presently the train rolled out of the depot, and we were at last bound for Washington. All the night through Mr. Lincoln, being unable to sleep, had been telling us jokes and stories, of which he seemed to have an endless store, in a voice so low no one heard him but Lamon and me.

"As the train neared the capital city (it was then daylight and we were making the necessary preparations for our orderly appearance on our arrival at the Washington depot), Mr. Lincoln yawned, and, turning toward Lamon and me, said with a smile, 'Well, boys, thank God this prayer meeting's over.' Then he told a story to emphasize the fact that he was now at the end of his perilous journey and no longer needed our aid or companionship. A steamboat, on one occasion, ran into a sandbar in the river with such force and became so deeply imbedded in the obstruction it was found impossible, with the methods and appliances then in vogue, to move her. The only other remedy left was to wait—and no one could tell how long that would be—till the high waters should come and float her away. Meanwhile there happened to be a revival in progress at the church in a village on shore, opposite the point where the helpless vessel lay. Yielding to the entreaties of the church people, the captain one day consented that a prayer meeting might be held in the cabin or large room of the boat. The meeting

had not progressed very far until the vessel, yielding to the movements of the crowd and the additional weight at one end, began to lurch slightly and presently slid off the offending sandbar. In an instant she floated away into deep water. At that particular moment an old brother, with eyes closed, was on his knees sending up a long and fervent prayer to the almighty. The captain's joy knew no bounds. Without waiting for the good brother to finish his prayer, the former mounted a chair and cried out at the top of his voice, 'Get off this boat, every d—d one of you; this prayer meeting's ended.'

"At the depot, awaiting us as the train rolled in, were Mr. Washburn, of Illinois, and Senator Seward. We then proceeded at once to Willard's hotel, where Mr. Lincoln registered his own name and that of Mr. Lamon and myself, and was assigned rooms, though not those he expected he would have, as he had arrived somewhat in advance of the appointed time. During the morning, after the news of his arrival had spread, there was more or less excited talk. Few men were willing to believe he had actually reached the city, and many were the vile and bitter imprecations I heard heaped upon his head while mingling with the crowds in the hotels and public places of that rebellious city. Its people, as a rule, appeared scarcely more favorable to the union than in Baltimore. Mrs. Lincoln, accompanied by Mr. Judd and the rest of the party, followed in due time. Before they left Harrisburg the news had been telegraphed all over the country of the safe arrival of the president-elect in Washington. In passing through Baltimore they met with anything but a cordial reception. At Mr. Lincoln's suggestion I returned to Baltimore that afternoon for the purpose of learning whether those who sought his life in that city might not amend their plot so as to attempt to destroy him on the day of his inauguration; and I accordingly remained there until after the latter event had taken place."





# Lincoln's Secret Trip to Capital And First Plot of Assassination

CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

## How Initial Conspiracy Was Foiled Described by Allan Pinkerton

1.22 — 1813

**H**OW the plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln before his inauguration as President in 1861 was foiled is told in detail in a letter written by Allan Pinkerton and published for the first time in the American Magazine for February. The fact that Pinkerton laid bare the plot and saved Lincoln's life has long been known, but the detailed story written by the famous detective to Lincoln's law partner, William H. Herndon, in 1866 was held as confidential. The letter passed from Mr. Herndon to Jesse W. Weik of Greencastle, Ind., who was his collaborator in his life of Lincoln. As there is no further necessity to withhold names or facts Mr. Weik has consented to the publication of all the circumstances detailed by Mr. Pinkerton.

Mr. Pinkerton tells of plans of secessionists of Maryland to seize a steamer of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad at Havre de Grace and to burn the bridges of that company between Havre de Grace and Baltimore. S. M. Felton, then president of that road, called him into the case and after extensive operations by men and women detectives decisive information was obtained of a plot to assassinate Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Pinkerton was authorized by Mr. Felton to apprise Mr. Lincoln of the plot.

"On the day of Mr. Lincoln's arrival in New York," he writes, "fearing to leave Baltimore myself in case of anything vital occurring which might need my immediate attention, I sent one of my lady operatives, Mrs. Warne, who for many years had been in charge of my female detective force, and upon whose judgment and discretion I could rely, with a letter to my friend the Hon. Norman B. Judd of Chicago, who was then accompanying Mr. Lincoln, and was with him in New York. Knowing the difficulty Mrs. Warne would have in securing an interview with Mr. Judd, I gave her a letter to my friend, Mr.—now General—E. S. Sanford, of New York, vice president of the Adams Express Company, and also president of the American Telegraph Company, requesting him to arrange for her an interview with Mr. Judd. This was accordingly done, and Mr. Judd, having read my letter and obtained from Mrs. Warne what additional information he could, came to the conclusion that he would not apprise Mr. Lincoln of the developments until after the arrival of the party in Philadelphia.

"I was then notified by telegraph from New York by Messrs. Sanford and Judd, and also by Mrs. Warne, to say nothing to anyone, and to meet Mr. Judd in Philadelphia on the arrival of the presidential party. I did so, and through the agency of George H. Burns met Mr. Judd at the St. Louis Hotel on Chestnut street. Mr. Felton, the president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, accompanying me. The streets were crowded with people, and there was more or less excitement. The loyal mass was waiting to congratulate and welcome their chief magistrate. I communicated to Mr. Judd the particulars of the plot, the only other person present being Mr. Felton. Mr. Judd was at once deeply impressed with the danger that seemed to surround Mr. Lincoln, but he said he very

much feared he would be unable to induce that gentleman to change his route, which was what I urged, my idea, and that of Mr. Felton's also, being to have him leave Philadelphia that night by the midnight express for Washington, thus passing through Baltimore thirty-six hours before the time when he would be expected. Mr. Judd answered that Mr. Lincoln's confidence in the people was unbounded; that he did not fear any violent outbreak, and that he hoped, by his pacific policy and conciliatory measures, to bring the secessionists back to their old allegiance. There was no doubt in Mr. Judd's mind of the correctness of his information, and his manner and expression convinced us that his deductions were reliable and accurate. After further discussion, he desired that I should accompany him to the Continental Hotel for an interview with Mr. Lincoln himself, to which I consented.

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"When we reached the Continental Hotel a dense crowd of people had filled every available inch of space in Chestnut street, struggling for admission to the hotel where Mr. Lincoln was holding a reception, and it was with the utmost difficulty that we were able to gain an entrance into the building. It was almost, if not quite, 11 o'clock in the evening before Mr. Lincoln was able to disengage himself from the crowd and join Mr. Judd and me in the former's room. Though plainly exhausted from the fatigue of travel and receptions, he greeted me in his usual kindly and gracious way. I unfolded as rapidly as I could the various bits of information I had gathered, all tending, as I contended, to prove the existence of the alleged plot. He asked numerous questions, especially as to the sources of my information, and appeared to be deeply interested in the developments. Finally he turned to Judd and, addressing us both, inquired what course we thought he ought to pursue.

"I urged upon him that as the Washington train would not leave Philadelphia for an hour he had ample time to take it, and thus would be enabled to pass through Baltimore before the conspirators would be looking for him. This he firmly and positively refused to do, saying he had an engagement for the next morning to raise the flag on Independence Hall, and that he had also promised the citizens of Pennsylvania to meet them at their capitol in Harrisburg; that he had positively engaged this to Governor Curtin, and was determined to carry out that programme if in so doing he knew he would lose his own life. However, after the meeting in Harrisburg on the following day, he was willing, he said, to make any reasonable change in his programme Mr. Judd and I thought best. He then assented to the following: After raising the flag on Independence Hall the next morning at 8 he would breakfast at the hotel, leave by special train for Harrisburg at 8 o'clock, meet the governor and the legislature, and, after his reception there, leave in the evening for Philadelphia by special train, in time to connect with the midnight Washington express, placing himself entirely in our hands.

"Undoubtedly this interview, culminating in his expressed determination to carry out the programme both at Philadelphia and Harrisburg, even at the expense of his life, made a deep impression on Mr. Lincoln; for it will be remembered that the next morning, when he ran the Union flag up the staff over Independence Hall, in a burst of patriotic fervor, he exclaimed: 'Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon this basis? [The promise of equal rights

in the Declaration of Independence.] If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle it will be truly awful. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say, I would rather be assassinated on this spot than to surrender it.'

"Finding Mr. Lincoln resolute, I told him I thought I could make the necessary arrangements for his safe passage from Harrisburg on the following evening through Philadelphia and Baltimore to Washington,

being well acquainted with the officers of the roads over which it would be necessary for him to travel. After leaving him and promising to return to see Mr. Judd—it was now about 1 a. m.—I started out to find my friend Colonel Thomas A. Scott, vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, with a view to arranging with him for a special train to bring Mr. Lincoln from Harrisburg to Philadelphia. Learning that Colonel Scott was out of town, I then applied to G. C. Francis, superintendent of the Philadelphia division of the road. The city being all excitement, I had some difficulty in finding Mr. Francis, and, in fact, did not succeed until almost 3 o'clock. Knowing him to be a true and loyal man, I had no hesitation in telling him what I desired. He promptly answered that he would make the required arrangements for the special train for Mr. Lincoln, adding, however, that there were some difficulties in the way, because there were so many special trains due to leave Harrisburg for Philadelphia that same evening; but that he would arrange that Mr. Lincoln's should be the last to leave, and would sidetrack the others which had preceded his, so that none of them should reach Philadelphia till after he had left for Baltimore. This being satisfactorily adjusted, I then hunted up E. S. Sanford, president of the American Telegraph Company, and arranged with him to detail the proper parties, when Mr. Lincoln should have left Harrisburg in the evening, to cut the telegraph wires leading out of that place in every direction, except the wires of the railroad company, which were necessary to the movement of the trains. It was further provided that none but trustworthy operators were to be at the wires, and that no dispatch should be sent over the lines save such as related to the running of the trains.

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"Promptly at 8 o'clock the next morning Mr. Lincoln made his speech in Independence Hall and raised the flag. An hour later I met Mr. Judd and notified him of the arrangements I had made during the night. It was then agreed between us that Mr. Lincoln should, just before leaving Harrisburg, withdraw to his room at the hotel under pretense of indisposition, and then slip away without the knowledge of any of his party save Mr. Judd. Mr. Lincoln had insisted that none should be acquainted with his secret departure but Mrs. Lincoln. This he said could not be avoided—as, otherwise, she would be very much excited over his absence. I had just learned that morning that General Scott and Senator Seward had also discovered a plot to assassinate Mr. Lincoln as he passed through Baltimore, and had employed certain New York police officers to ferret out the same; that the latter had found some evidence of such a plot, but not so clearly outlined as ours, and yet of sufficient weight to impress upon General Scott and Senator Seward the danger to Mr. Lincoln if he persisted in carrying out his published programme.

"During the day I arranged with Mr. Felton the programme for the passage through Baltimore and on to Washington. This was that Captain Burns, Mr. Sanford's confidential agent, H. S. Thayer, and Andrew Winn should, at the proper time, cut the necessary telegraph wires, the same not to be reunited till Mr. Lincoln had reached Washington; that in the evening, shortly before the departure of the regular train



from Philadelphia to Washington. I was to send Mrs. Warne, accompanied by George Dunne of Newark, N. J., to engage two sections—the rear ones, if possible—of the through sleeping car to Washington for a sick friend, while I myself, in company with H. H. Kenney Esq., now general superintendent of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, was to meet Mr. Lincoln with a carriage at the West Philadelphia depot of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and convey him from there to the depot of the former road, so that none of the employees of that road, with the exception of Messrs. Felton, William Stearns, the general superintendent, and Kenney, should know aught of the important traveler who was to pass over their line. Mr. Felton arranged for the detention of the train a short time by instructing the conductor that the train should not leave the depot until he received a package from him. Felton, addressed to 'E. J. Allen' (the name under which I went in the national capital) at Willard's Hotel, Washington, which package he should hand to the conductor of the Baltimore and Ohio train for delivery in Washington. Of course the package contained nothing but a lot of unimportant papers.

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"Mr. Lincoln received me very kindly, and appeared to be as cool and free from excitement as I ever saw him. He wore an overcoat thrown loosely about his shoulders, without inserting his arms in the sleeves, and a black Kossuth hat, which, he told me, some ardent supporter had presented to him during the campaign. He took a seat with Mr. Lamon and myself, Mr. Kenney, the superintendent of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, sharing the seat with the driver overhead. As it was too early for us to approach the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore depot, Mr. Kenney had the driver take us around the city until it was just about time to reach the depot five minutes after the train was due to leave.

"We left the carriage at a dark spot a short distance from the depot; and, Mr. Lamon keeping a little in the rear of Mr. Lincoln and myself, the latter leaning upon my arm, and stooping somewhat so as to diminish his height as much as possible, we passed rapidly through the depot, entered the sleeping car, and within two minutes—Mr. Kenney, meanwhile, having delivered the package of valuable papers to the conductor, John Litsenburg—the train was in motion, and we were speeding along toward Baltimore. None of the party slept any. At Havre de Grace, on my return inside the car, after having been out to see if my signals were all right, Mr. Lincoln remarked: 'They say we are at Havre de Grace, and are moving along well. I understand we are on time.'

"Although Mr. Lincoln did not sleep, he was by no means restless. I could not then nor have I since been able to understand how anyone, under like circumstances, could have manifested such complete mental composure and cheerful spirits as he exhibited during the entire journey. On arriving at the Baltimore and Ohio depot in Baltimore we had a wait of about half an hour. Here I again left the car, but remained outside only long enough to satisfy myself that everything was all right. It was now about 4 o'clock. When I returned everybody in the car seemed to be asleep but our party. Presently the train rolled out of the depot, and we were at last bound for Washington. All the night through Mr. Lincoln, being unable to sleep, had been telling us jokes and stories, of which he seemed to have an endless store, in a voice so low no one heard him but Lamon and me.

"At the depot, awaiting us as the train rolled in, were Mr. Washburne of Illinois and Senator Seward. We then proceeded at once to Willard's Hotel.

"At Mr. Lincoln's suggestion I returned to Baltimore that afternoon for the purpose of learning whether those who sought his life in that city might not amend their plot so as to attempt to destroy him on the day of his inauguration, and I accordingly remained there till after the latter event had taken place."

## MR. LINCOLN'S ARRIVAL AT WASHINGTON.

From "Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln," by Elihu B. Washburne.

I was on hand in season, but, to my great disappointment, Governor Seward did not appear. I planted myself behind one of the great pillars in the old Washington and Baltimore depot, where I could see and not be observed. Presently the train came rambling in on time. It was a moment of great anxiety to me \* \* \* \* When the train came to a stop I watched with fear and trembling to see the passengers descend. I saw every car emptied and there was no Mr. Lincoln. I was well nigh in despair and about to leave when I saw slowly emerge from the last sleeping car, three persons. I could not mistake the long, lank form of Mr. Lincoln, and my heart bounded with joy and gratitude. Any one who knew him at that time could not fail to recognize him at once. The only persons that accompanied Mr. Lincoln at that time were Pinkerton, the well-known detective, and Ward H. Lamon. When they were fairly on the platform a short distance from the car, I stepped forward and accosted the President. **B & D MAGAZINE**

"How are you, Lincoln?"

At this unexpected and somewhat familiar salutation the gentlemen were apparently somewhat startled, but Mr. Lincoln, who recognized me, relieved them at once by remarking in his peculiar voice:

"This is only Washburne."

Then we all exchanged congratulations and walked out to the front of the depot, where I had carriage in waiting. Entering the carriage we drove rapidly to Willard's Hotel, entering on 14th street before it was fairly daylight. **FEB 1862**

We had not been in the hotel more than a few moments when Mr. Seward hurriedly entered, much out of breath, and somewhat chagrined to think that he had not been up in season to be at the depot on the arrival of the train.

Col. McClure says further that Mrs. Lincoln and her suite passed through Baltimore in the 23d without any sign of turbulence. The fact that there was not even a curious crowd brought together when she passed through the city—which then required considerable time, as the cars were taken across Baltimore by horses—confirmed Lincoln in his belief. It is needless now to discuss the question real or imaginary danger in Lincoln passing through Baltimore at noonday according to the original program. It is enough to know that there were reasonable grounds for apprehension that an attempt might be made upon his life, even if there was not the organized band of assassins that the detectives believed to exist.

All Washington was in a state of excitement on the day Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated. No one knew just what might happen. Trouble of an unhappy nature was not unexpected. To guard against assassins during the inaugural ceremonies riflemen in squads had been placed upon the roofs of certain commanding houses along Pennsylvania avenue, with orders to watch the windows on opposite sides and to fire at any one making an attempt to fire upon the presidential party. A small force of United States regular cavalry guarded the street crossings of the avenue, and a battalion of District troops were placed near the steps of the Capitol. On the brow of the hill near the north entrance to the Capitol was stationed a light battery of flying artillery, and near this General Scott remained a careful observer of all that passed during the entire ceremony.

The scene at Lincoln's inauguration was unusual. The work of placing the dome on the Capitol was then in progress. On every side were derricks and steel cables. In the midst of the assembled multitude stood the great bronze statue of the Goddess of Liberty, not yet lifted to the pedestal which she now occupies.

An inaugural ball was given in the evening in a temporary building in Judiciary Square. President Lincoln did not attend. President and Mrs. Lincoln, however, attended the inaugural ball given in their honor on the occasion of the second inauguration. This ball was held in the model room of the Patent Office.

On the day of his second inauguration Mr. Lincoln went to the Capitol at an early hour to attend to official duties, which kept him until noon, and consequently the parade was obliged to move without him.

As the Presidential train neared Washington, Lincoln was met by a messenger from Seward and also by Allan Pinkerton, the noted detective, with the warning of a plot to mob him in Baltimore, where in those times all thru railway cars had to be closely hauled across the city by horses. Although he disliked to steal into the capital, as he said, "like a thief in the night," he accepted the advice of those around him and quietly left his party at Harrisburg. Accompanied only by Pinkerton and another loyal Illinois friend, he finished the journey unobserved, though undisguised, in a general sleeping car. Arriving in Washington at dawn, the three men hailed a station hack, like any other strangers, and were already settled at their hotel when the capital awoke to the startling news that the President-elect was in the city. **510**



## LINCOLN PASSES THRU; DOES NOT STOP AT BALTIMORE.

Railroad officials, particularly, Mr. Felton, president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, over which Mr. Lincoln was traveling, wished him to make a safe journey. All precautions had been taken. Rumors came that bridges on the railroad would be burned. For this reason, Mr. Felton gathered together some of the best detectives in the county and set them to whitewashing the bridges between the Susquehanna and Baltimore. This was an action which startled the people, who did not know that this whitewash consisted of salt and alum, which would tend to make the bridges fireproof.

Strange to say, there had been no invitation from Maryland's governor, nor from her legislature to the new president to visit Maryland's capital; neither was there any invitation from the mayor of the city of Baltimore. Mr. Lincoln's party had met with several minor accidents in friendly towns, and he did not know what to expect in a city where there were no indications that the city authorities would endeavor properly to protect the party. The only invitations that were extended Mr. Lincoln from that city of Baltimore were from the proprietor of the Eutaw House, and from Mr. Gittings, president of the Northern Central Railroad. *B & O Magazine*

The following account of the journey of Mr. Lincoln thru the city of Baltimore was sent to the Magazine by the late John Ed. Spurrier, shortly before Mr. Spurrier's death:

"President A. Lincoln passed through Baltimore on the night of February 22, 1861. My understanding of President Lincoln's trip from the West to take his seat at Washington is from conversations which I overheard between Alex Diffey, general superintendent of trains and my grandfather, Thomas Spurrier.

"Mr. Lincoln was to arrive at Calvert, or Bolton Station (N. C. Railway), Baltimore, via Harrisburg, Pa., but because of the threats the route was changed so that he would arrive via the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore railroad, (President Street Depot.) Here the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad teams would haul to Howard and Howard Street into each car of the train via Pratt Street the Camden Station yard.

"The entrance to the passenger yard from Howard Street crossed Camden Street, curved around the east end of the Station building, the track running alongside the platform under the shed, where the passengers boarded and left the cars.

"The threatening crowd crowded the station platform from which the train was scheduled, on Mr. Lincoln's arrival, to depart.

"But 'Daddy' Smith or 'Tim' Murphy, in charge of the team hauling Mr. Lincoln's car, was instructed, on Pratt Street, to lead his team, quietly through the back track, instead of to the platform. Engine 236 was on the back track, in readiness to take Mr. Lincoln's car to Washington. This worked fine, and while the threatening crowd awaited the arrival of Mr. Lincoln's car on the regular track, Mr. Lincoln was out of sight and on his way toward Washington. Another engine took the regular train. 'Daddy' Smith, 'Tim' Murphy and others connected with this trip have passed away. My uncle,

Alex Diffey, and W. F. Smith, had arranged the switch-off, as they arranged many others during the Civil war. Engine 236 was one of the finest engines of the day." *Feb. 1922*

## MR. LINCOLN'S ARRIVAL AT WASHINGTON.

From "Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln," by Elihu B. Washburne.

I was on hand in season, but, to my great disappointment, Governor Seward did not appear. I planted myself behind one of the great pillars in the old Washington and Baltimore depot, where I could see and not be observed. Presently the train came rambling in on time. It was a moment of great anxiety to me \* \* \* \* When the train came to a stop I watched with fear and trembling to see the passengers descend. I saw every car emptied and there was no Mr. Lincoln. I was well nigh in despair and about to leave when I saw slowly emerge from the last sleeping car, three persons. I could not mistake the long, lank form of Mr. Lincoln, and my heart bounded with joy and gratitude. Any one who knew him at that time could not fail to recognize him at once. The only persons that accompanied Mr. Lincoln at that time were Pinkerton, the well-known detective, and Ward H. Lamon.

When they were fairly on the platform a short distance from the car, I stepped forward and accosted the President.

"How are you, Lincoln?"

At this unexpected and somewhat familiar salutation the gentlemen were apparently somewhat startled, but Mr. Lincoln, who recognized me, relieved them at once by remarking in his peculiar voice:

"This is only Washburne."

Then we all exchanged congratulations and walked out to the front of the depot, where I had carriage in waiting. Entering the carriage we drove rapidly to Willard's Hotel, entering on 14th street before it was fairly daylight. *B & O Magazine*

We had not been in the hotel more than a few moments when Mr. Seward hurriedly entered, much out of breath, and somewhat chagrined to think that he had not been up in season to be at the depot on the arrival of the train. *Feb. 1922*

Col. McClure says further that Mrs. Lincoln and her suite passed through Baltimore in the 23d without any sign of turbulence. The fact that there was not even a curious crowd brought together when she passed through the city—which then required considerable time, as the cars were taken across Baltimore by horses—confirmed Lincoln in his belief. It is needless now to discuss the question real or imaginary danger in Lincoln passing through Baltimore at noonday according to the original program. It is enough to know that there were reasonable grounds for apprehension that an attempt might be made upon his life, even if there was not the organized band of assassins that the detectives believed to exist.

# Lincoln—A Plot—Foiled!

## How Pinkerton Saved "Honest Abe" by Night Drive Through Philadelphia Streets

SEVENTY-TWO years ago this week night-prowling Philadelphians might have seen wandering through the streets a closed carriage which contained all the characters and elements necessary to a modern mystery thriller.

In that carriage rode Abraham Lincoln, flanked by Allan Pinkerton, America's most famous detective, and Col. Ward H. Lamon, Lincoln's trusted friend. They were killing time between the arrival of a train that had brought them from Harrisburg and the departure of another which would bear them, incognito, to Washington. On the way they must pass through Baltimore, dark with threats against the President-elect's life.

But, except for the few in the secret, none would know until after Lincoln's arrival at the National Capital that he had even left Harrisburg.

Abraham Lincoln, in February, 1861, was swinging around the circle, preparatory to taking office. Allan Pinkerton learned of the plot in Baltimore to assassinate him and disclosed it to Lincoln and others at a meeting in Philadelphia, where the President-elect had come to raise a flag over Independence Hall.

### Follows Detective's Plan

LINCOLN rejected a proposal to escape danger by leaving for Washington that night. He had promised, he said, to speak in Harrisburg. But he did agree to follow a plan outlined by the detective.

In accordance, with this plan Lincoln left Harrisburg secretly the following afternoon, although the general impression was that he would leave much later and go direct to Baltimore, where trouble threatened. After slipping quietly away from a reception, he was driven to the outskirts of the city where a special Pennsylvania Railroad train awaited him. Aboard were only a few friends and officials or employes of the railroad, among them John Pitcairn, Jr., then a telegraph operator, later to become one of America's great industrialists and a leading figure in the founding of the Bryn Athyn community near Philadelphia.

Meanwhile, all telegraph wires leading from Harrisburg had been cut to prevent Southern spies who might be watching Lincoln at Harrisburg from communicating with Baltimore, in the event that they learned of his departure.

At the West Philadelphia Station Pinkerton awaited the President-elect in the carriage. Because the special train had arrived earlier than was expected, it became necessary to kill time, and the carriage was driven slowly down Market street to 19th, thence to Vine street, down Vine to 17th street, and from there to the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Depot, near what is now Broad street and Washington avenue.

### Woman Aids in Ruse

AT THE train waited Mrs. Kate Warne, one of Pinkerton's operatives and perhaps the first effective woman detective in America. She had engaged the last three compartments of a sleeping car—for an invalid brother and his party, she explained. Lincoln entered the car unrecognized while Pinkerton and others maintained a quiet, constant vigil.

In Baltimore the car was drawn by horses through the city to another station to make connections with a Washington train. So effective had been the arrangements, however, that the plotters never suspected the President-elect's presence. The remainder of the trip was without further incident.

The later activities of Pinkerton, Mrs. Warne and others of his operatives constitute a thrilling chapter of Civil War history. Students of the detective's career are convinced that the effective work he performed in safeguarding Lincoln on that trip had much to do with the fact that great confidence thereafter was accorded him.

PHILADELPHIA



# Sleuth Who Saved Lincoln's Life Hanged By Confederates

*Savannah Daily Journal* 2/12/33  
**Timothy Webster, Englishman, Uncovered Plot to  
Assassinate President In 1861.**

(Copyright, 1933, by the North American  
Newspaper Alliance, Incorporated.)

Washington, Feb. 11. — Abraham Lincoln would never have been President except for an Englishman who uncovered a plot to assassinate him before he could take office.

In February, 1861, when Maryland was trying to decide whether to secede, Timothy Webster, a Pinkerton detective who was born in England and came to the United States when he was 12 years old, was sent to Perryman'sville, Md., after the master machinist of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore, William Stearns, heard of a plot to kill the President-elect. He wrote a note to Allan Pinkerton, who had been engaged by friends of Lincoln to protect the President-elect. Stearns heard that an independent cavalry company not enrolled in the Southern Army, and then in Perryman'sville, was in the plot, and sent the information on to Pinkerton, who relayed it to Webster.

Arriving at the village, Webster set about enlisting in the company, avowedly Southern in sympathies. He soon convinced the cavalymen of his loyalty, sincerity and hatred of Lincoln.

One morning the captain asked Webster to call that night at his house

and not to tell anyone. At the appointed hour Webster appeared at the captain's home. He was introduced to three strangers from Baltimore, and then the gathering sat down at a long table to discuss details of the plot.

Webster thrilled as he listened. He, an immigrant, was to save the life of the President of his adopted country, for while actually Webster was still a British subject, he always considered himself, after he had grown up, an American.

When Lincoln and his party arrived at the Calvert Street Station in Baltimore, the assassin was to do his work, while the fellow conspirators were to see that the murderer escaped.

After the meeting Webster sent Pinkerton a message in code, telling

SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 12, 1933.

## SLEUTH WHO SAVED LINCOLN'S LIFE HANGED BY CONFEDERATES

(Continued from First Page.)

of the plot, and two nights before the attempt of assassination was to be made, Allan Pinkerton laid the details before Lincoln in Philadelphia.

Pinkerton wanted Lincoln to go that night to Washington, where he would be reasonably safe, but Lincoln refused to give up a scheduled trip to Harrisburg, Penn., the next day.

After greeting the Legislature and dining at Harrisburg, Lincoln retired to his quarters. Having informed a very few friends of his new movements and the cause, he put on an

old overcoat and walked out of the house at a back door, bareheaded, without exciting any special curiosity. Then he put on a soft hat and without being recognized by strangers went to a railroad siding where an engine and coach were waiting. The only person accompanying him was Colonel Ward Lamont.

Lamont had had all telegraph lines out of the city grounded for fear news of the secret trip might leak out and be wired to the would-be assassins.

At Baltimore Lincoln did not leave his coach and proceeded safely to Washington.

The next day, the rest of the Lincoln party followed to Washington. At Baltimore was a none-too-friendly crowd waiting to see the President-elect. It was obviously disappointed

to learn he had already passed through.

Four months later Lincoln met and thanked the man who had saved him.

Later when Pinkerton organized the United States Secret Service, Webster became a Government spy for the North, and in a short time was in the most dangerous game a man can play in wartime; he became a double spy.

To the South, Webster revealed minor secrets of the North that he might learn greater secrets for the North. In a short time he was an important person in the Confederate States. He became a friend and confidant of many leading Southerners. He received many honors. An Alabama regiment made him an honorary Colonel.

Webster finally was found out. He

was tried and sentenced to be hanged. Pinkerton notified Lincoln, who called a meeting of his Cabinet to discuss the situation.

A message was sent to Jefferson Davis, Southern President, saying that no Confederate spy had been hanged by the North, nor would be unless the custom was started by the South, in which case the North would retaliate.

Nevertheless, on April 29, 1862, at Richmond, Va., Webster was led to the scaffold and hanged.



*Tribune  
Feb 14, 1934*

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## Letter Warned Lincoln Of Death in 'Awful Form'

### Threat Revealed by Dentist Is Attributed to Booth

CHICAGO, Feb. 13 (AP).—A letter threatening "death in its most awful forms" to Abraham Lincoln, believed to have been sent to the martyred President the year he was nominated for the Presidency, was made public today by Dr. E. W. Edlund, a Chicago dentist.

Dr. Edlund said he had reason to believe the author of the threat was John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin. The letter was written in ink, decorated with pen sketches, and was headed "Behold Your Death Warrant!"

The letter never before has been made public. Dr. Edlund recalled that Lincoln made the journey to Washington for his inauguration in disguise as if to escape possible assassins.

"We, considering your principles to be at enmity to our dearest rights," the letter said, "condescend to address you in polite and gentlemanly language, although a beast is unworthy of the notice of your humble enemies."

"Nevertheless, we feel it our duty to give you fair warning of the cloud which, hanging over you, charged with death in its most awful forms, is ready in the event of your election, to break over you and to utterly annihilate you and your damnable, hellish, set of hell-hounds."

"Know therefore, old Abe, that a secret brotherhood exists in the glorious South, numbering upward of 20,000 full armed men, sworn by all they hold dear in this world and their hopes of the next to send your black spirit, enveloped in all its clouds of wickedness, to its proper abode, where in close unison with its brother, Satan, it may make the terrible vaults of hell more terrible and the tortures of the victims of your teachings more awful."

Dr. Edlund said he obtained the letter from Robert Todd Lincoln, son of the president and once head of the Pullman Company. Dr. Edlund was an employee of the Pullman Company during his college days.

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director.  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 204

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

March 6, 1933

## FIRST ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE LINCOLN

The significance of the first attempt to assassinate Abraham Lincoln has been minimized by the tragedy which occurred April 14, 1865. The conclusion that the department of the president on his approach to Washington in 1861 is not above criticism has also had a tendency to pass by the episode with little comment. The enemies of Lincoln, however, found in this adventure an opportunity to ridicule his clandestine journey to Washington and call the attempt to assassinate him an idle tale.

Lincoln himself lived to regret the incident and is said to have upbraided Lamon for "aiding him to degrade himself at the very moment in all his life when his behavior should have exhibited the utmost dignity and composure."

The story of this sensational episode can best be developed by presenting three scenes: The Plot, The President's Reaction, and The Frustration of the Assassins.

### *The Plot*

No one who has read the life story of Allan Pinkerton will conclude that he was an alarmist. To him, more than any one man, however, should go the credit for Abraham Lincoln's safe arrival in Washington on February 23, 1861.

In the early part of the month Pinkerton established himself and his staff of detectives in Baltimore, having been engaged by the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore railroad to investigate a conspiracy to destroy the company's tracks over which General Scott had been moving soldiers into Washington. It was while thus engaged that an officer of the railroad advised Pinkerton of a plot to assassinate Lincoln. Pinkerton immediately put his men on the case with the result that the entire proceedings of the secret organization sponsoring the move were made available. An Italian by the name of Captain Ferdinandina seemed to be one of the leaders in the plot, and it might be said that through him the idea of assassinating presidents was first introduced into America.

Notes from Pinkerton's own journal made at the time and used as the basis of a magazine article as early as 1868 give us what might be called first-hand evidence of what really occurred. It was learned from the published program of Lincoln's itinerary that he would arrive in Baltimore at the Calvert Street Depot and from there take an open carriage and ride nearly a mile and a half to the Washington Depot.

The details of the plot follow:

"The leaders finally fully determined that the assassination should take place at the Calvert Street Depot. A vast crowd of secessionists was to assemble at that place and await the arrival of the train with Mr. Lincoln. They were to go early and fill the narrow streets and passages immediately surrounding it. When Mr. Lincoln should attempt to pass through the narrow passage leading to the street, some roughs were to raise a row on the outside, and all the police were to rush away to quell the disturbance. At this moment, the police being withdrawn, Mr. Lincoln would find himself in a dense, excited, and hostile crowd, hustled and jammed, and then the fatal blow was to be struck."

A short time after this plot was planned in Baltimore, in the very same place, four northern soldiers were murdered and many wounded by a mob led by the same conspirators who would have assassinated Lincoln just as willingly.

### *The President's Reaction*

Lincoln's first reaction towards the information brought to him by Pinkerton and Judd, on the evening of February 21, at Philadelphia, is revealed by the following entry which the detective made in his journal at that time:

"While Mr. Judd detailed the circumstances of the conspiracy, Mr. Lincoln listened very attentively, but did not say a word, nor did his countenance, which I closely watched, show any emotion. He was thoughtful, serious, but decidedly firm."

Mr. Judd then asked, "Will you, upon any statement

which can be made, consent to leave for Washington on tonight's train?" Mr. Lincoln promptly replied, "No, I cannot consent to do this. I shall hoist the flag on Independence Hall tomorrow morning (Washington's birthday), and go to Harrisburg tomorrow, and meet the Legislature of Pennsylvania; then I shall have fulfilled all my engagements. After this, if you and Pinkerton think there is positive danger in my attempting to go through Baltimore openly, according to the published programme—if you can arrange any way to carry out your purposes, I will place myself in your hands." Pinkerton says: "Mr. Lincoln said this with a tone and manner so decisive we saw that no more was to be said."

It will be observed that there was a determination on the part of Lincoln to carry out the speaking program which had been arranged for him regardless of the consequences. It will also be noted that after these obligations were fulfilled he was willing to be advised by his friends who were in a position to know the facts about the conspiracy. The confirmation of the Baltimore plot by Seward at Washington who sent his son to Philadelphia to warn Lincoln, evidently confirmed the idea in Lincoln's mind that the plot was no bit of phantasm built up by Pinkerton.

There is no question but what the evidence laid before Lincoln at that time convinced him that his life was sought and this fact finds expression in his speech on the following morning in Independence Hall when he said "that he would rather be assassinated on the spot than surrender those principles" for which the fathers of the nation had died.

One who knows how Lincoln's mind would react towards such a program will be convinced that his first thought was not of himself, either as the victim of an assassin or a ridiculed leader fleeing from danger; but the one question uppermost in his mind must have been, "What procedure will be best for the country?" He must have realized that one overt act against his person as president elect would throw the country into civil war immediately. This he wished to avert.

### *The Frustration of the Assassins*

While there is no question about the secrecy of the journey, most of the stories about Lincoln traveling in disguise are the inventions of his enemies. This account of the trip written in 1868 from notes made at the time of the journey seem to set forth just what happened:

After his address at Harrisburg before the legislature and while at dinner "He left the dinner table, went to his room, changed his dress for a traveling suit, and, with a broad-rimmed felt hat (which had been presented to him at New York), he went quietly to a side door, got into a carriage in waiting, and was driven with one companion, Ward H. Lamon, rapidly to the car which awaited him, and was soon speeding on towards Philadelphia.

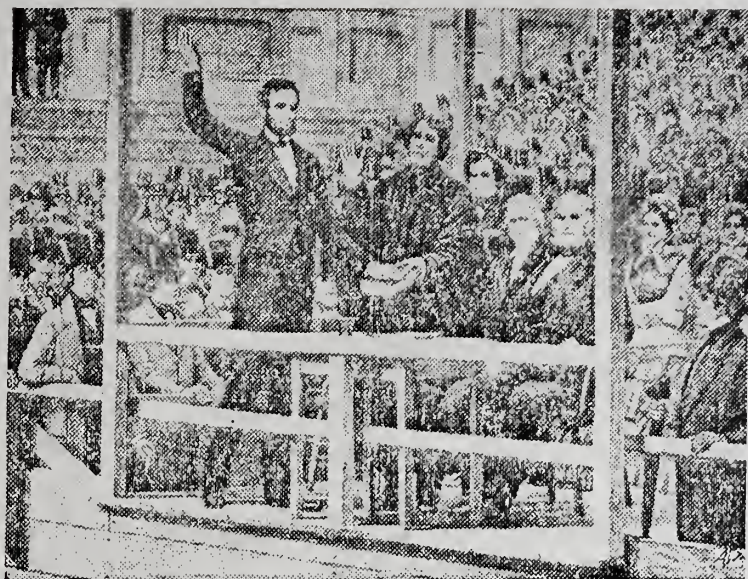
"On his arrival in Philadelphia Mr. Lincoln was met by Mr. Pinkerton, taken into a carriage, and driven to the depot of the Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad.

"Mr. Pinkerton had caused the three sections of the sleeping car, which was on the end of the train, to be taken, and his agent stood at the door, which was locked, awaiting the arrival of the party. When the party appeared the door was opened and Mr. Lincoln stepped in, went to this berth—the whistle sounded and the train was whirling on towards Washington.

"Nothing occurred to interrupt or delay the passage, and at six on the morning of the 23rd they reached Washington where at the depot they were met by some of the President's Illinois friends."

Possibly some of those who feel quite certain what would have happened if Lincoln had not been assassinated by Booth, would be able to enlighten us about what might have taken place in this country if Lincoln had tried to pass through Baltimore and had been assassinated there.





LINCOLN'S FIRST INAUGURATION. from a contemporary drawing.

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## Question: What President Sneaked In for Inaugural

(Last of a series on exciting presidential inaugurations.)

By ALEXANDER R. GEORGE

AP Feature Service Writer

1941

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Abraham Lincoln was the only president-elect to "sneak" into Washington for his inauguration.

When Lincoln left Illinois to come to the capital to take over the Presidency, seven states already had pulled out of the Union and the nation was on the brink of civil war. There were rumors of plots to assassinate the President-elect, seize Washington and blow up its public buildings.

Three-fourths of the inhabitants of the capital city were believed to have southern sympathies and to regard the incoming chief executive as an enemy. Here is the picture. . .

### Spirited Through Baltimore

En route to the capital, Lincoln leaves Harrisburg, Pa., secretly at night on a kerosene-lamp-lighted train, travels through hostile Baltimore with a shawl around his head as a disguise and slips quietly into Washington at 6:05 in the morning.

As the "great backwoodsman" rides from Willard's Hotel to the Capitol to swear to preserve the Union, his carriage is surrounded by soldiers. Expert riflemen on the roofs of houses train their guns on Pennsylvania Avenue, ready to repel any threat of violence.

The Lincoln "bodyguard" in the inaugural procession is composed of three companies of District of Columbia volunteers, most of them citizens of German ancestry. They march in front of, behind and at the sides of his open barouche.

Up at the capitol, Lincoln stands on the portico, "grave and impassive as an Indian martyr but with face slightly flushed and lips compressed," as one writer of the time put it. The lanky rail-splitter carries his hat in his right hand; a roll of manuscript in his left.

"Looking about for some place to put his hat, he turns this way and that when Senator Douglas, one of his competitors for the presidency, courteously reaches out his hand,

takes the embarrassing hat and holds it during the address."

### Kisses for Six

In the inaugural parade is a float called The Constitution. It is a car drawn by six white horses and carrying a group of girls, each in a white dress with a laurel wreath and the coat of arms of a state. The car pulls up at the White House shortly after the President has returned there from the Capitol.

"The little misses march into the mansion where Lincoln picks up each one and kisses her. A curl of one catches in the buttonhole of the President."

1-20-41

Marillo has



# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 886

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

April 1, 1946

## A SCOTCH CAP AND MILITARY COAT

Lincoln's humiliation at the time of his secret entrance into Washington previous to his inauguration in 1861 was greatly intensified by a wholly untrue and apparently malicious story about his having arrived in the Capitol wearing "a Scotch cap and military cloak." The tremendous publicity given to this ridiculous fabrication with reference to his apparel gave the contemporary cartoonists an opportunity to heap ridicule upon the President-elect.

The New York Times had assigned Joseph Howard, Jr., to the task of gathering news about the Lincoln family as they journeyed from Springfield, Illinois, to Washington. This was the same Joseph Howard who later on composed the fake proclamation of May 18, 1864, and forged Lincoln's name to it. For this piece of questionable political strategy Howard was thrown in jail. After several weeks of confinement he was released by an order of Lincoln.

An obscure newspaper clipping which was copied from the Philadelphia Press by the Burlington, Vermont, Free Press for November 21, 1884, gives Howard's own account of the bogus story. Although written twenty-three years after the 1861 episode occurred, a previous confinement in his room by a detective on the evening of the affair had not been forgotten. Here Howard admits that, with reference to the cap and cloak story: "There isn't a word of truth in it." Howard's statement of what took place follows:

### (Joe Howard in Philadelphia Press)

"I had been delegated by the paper I represented to accompany Mr. Lincoln and his family from Springfield, Ill., to Washington, and, of course, I did so. I stood within a yard of him, when, in Trenton, he made the memorable assertion that it was time the government put its foot down firmly, and I was with him in Philadelphia when he was comfortably housed in the Continental hotel, where the best people in the city vied with each other to do him honor and pay him the respect so honestly his due. And, by the way, this is about as good a time as any for me to explain the Scotch cap and military cloak story, which long since passed into history, and can be found in all the cyclopedias of the day.

"There isn't a word of truth in it. The intention was, after the reception and parade in Philadelphia, Mr. Lincoln and his party reviewing the torchlight wide-awakes and bands of music, and attended by thousands, from his rooms on Chestnut street, to go by the early train to Harrisburg, where, as in big places, a reception was to be given and a procession had in his honor, and thence direct to Washington. This plan, however was thwarted by information brought to the Continental, and communicated, I think, first to Mr. Kingsley and subsequently intrusted to Mr. Lincoln, although the wisdom of that step was then and has ever since been doubted. The information was to the effect that the train from Harrisburg was to be thrown from the track in the hope of killing the president-elect, without regard to the lives or safety of his wife and children and a large number of notables who were accompanying them. Mrs. Kingsley and Lincoln and gentlemen in charge of the party, who were Col. Wood, subsequently superintendent of buildings in Washington; Ward Lamon, subsequently marshal

of the District of Columbia, and a detective in the secret service by the name of Burns, brother of the Burns who used to keep the Pierrepont house in Brooklyn, kept the secret well. It was an anxious night with those people and with Mr. Seward, Jr., who accompanied the detective from Washington and brought the information to the parties interested. The next morning the presidential group started, and a continuous ovation greeted them all the way to Harrisburg, where a very creditable turnout was made with speech, band and fireworks accompaniment. I went to my room in the hotel at night, and was preparing my dispatch to wire to this city when Detective Burns entered the room and locked the door.

"I looked at him in amazement, and asked him what he meant. He told me I couldn't leave the room until the following morning. I asked why, and to make a long story short, in spite of my threats and representations of serious embarrassment to me personally and professionally, the conclusion was that I was not to leave until the following morning, as it was for the public good, which he, upon my promise not to use, explained, saying that Mr. Lincoln had already left by a special engine and car, and had gone back over his track in time to catch the evening train from New York, while his family and the rest of the party would continue their journey in accordance with the prearranged programme. He also informed me that the wires had been cut, and that communication with New York was a physical impossibility, but that nevertheless his orders were that none of the newspaper men should leave their rooms that night. I at once wrote a dispatch beginning as follows: 'Abraham Lincoln, president-elect of the United States, is safe in the city of Washington,' and then proceeded to narrate the circumstances, as unfolded to me by the detective who, with considerable mystery, said that no one would recognize Mr. Lincoln at sight, and that the plans of the conspirators were fortunately foiled.

"I asked myself what possible disguise would Lincoln get in Harrisburg, and, as I wrote on, I imagined him in a Scotch cap, which would be about as marked and opposite to his high silk hat as one could conceive, and a military cloak, which I borrowed, in my imagination, from the shapely shoulders of Col. Sumner, who was traveling with the president-elect. My dispatch was sent very early in the morning, and, by good luck, reached The Times office just as the day editor entered his room. His first thought was: 'Well, this is a pretty time of day for Howard's dispatch to arrive,' and, taking it up, mechanically glanced at it. The first sentence attracted his attention. Hurriedly reading it, and seeing its importance, he ordered it put up and an extra gotten out at once. The first thing known in this city by our esteemed contemporaries in especial and the public in general was when 1000 newsboys electrified the town with the extra Times and its astounding revelation of the diabolical plot against the chosen head of the nation. Immediately the illustrated papers took the matter up, and one and all printed pictures of Mr. Lincoln fleeing from Harrisburg, arranged in this chimerical garb, a Scotch cap and long military cloak. The story was absolutely correct, the trimmings were pure imagination."



# On Erie Journey to Washington for Inauguration, President Was Victim of Publicity Stunt Concocted by Railroad Magnate and Private Detective Pinkerton, a Scholar Asserts

WAS Abraham Lincoln in his eerie midnight ride to Washington for his inauguration as president, the victim of a publicity stunt? Were the fears of an overwrought nation in an anxious hour artfully exploited for private gain?

Both answers are "yes," according to a study just made for the Maryland Historical magazine by Edward Stanley Lanis. Lincoln himself never believed that hired killers in Baltimore were waiting to stab him. And, if Mr. Lanis has it straight, "Honest Abe" always regretted having been a party to a cloak and dagger situation cooked up by self-seeking men. He did not at all enjoy arriving in Washington before daylight of a February day, wearing a Tam o' Shanter and looking like a knock kneed Highlander. Even the jovial Lincoln felt that jokes could be carried too far, especially if they involved him.

It all sprang from the rivalry between the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore and the Northern Central railroads. They were the only rail connections between Washington and Baltimore and the northeast. With a civil war in prospect, that traffic showed great promise. The Northern Central had the edge and that annoyed the P. W. & B. boss, Samuel Felton—an earlier Samuel Felton than the one who became a middle west railway leader later. He must contrive some way to even the score with the Northern Central.

## 'Mr. Hutchinson,' the Gum-Shoe

Wild stories came out of all the slave holding border states, and especially out of Maryland, which, with Virginia, surrounded the District of Columbia and the national capital. Of all places in Maryland, Baltimore was supposed to be the most steeped in treason. Felton really feared that his rails and bridges might be torn up, although he did not believe all he heard about the secessionists. However, he would feel better if he had a patrol of northern bayonets along his tracks. Perhaps he could get the bayonets if he could ingratiate himself with the Lincoln regime. And if he could, he would be one up on the Northern Central.

Out in Chicago was youngish Allan Pinkerton, who was making a name as the pioneer railway detective. Presumably he knew about plots and railways, too; so Felton invited him east. Pinkerton was coy, which made Felton all the more eager. The upshot was that eight men and one woman, the cream of Pinkerton's agency, enlisted with Felton. Pinkerton posed as "John H. Hutchinson," a stock broker.

The party went to Baltimore on a plot hunt which led with marked regularity to bars and bagnios. One could hear much in such places especially if one were nimble with the pocketbook, which "Mr. Hutchinson" and his friends were. At "Hutchinson's" hotel was a barber named Cypriano Ferrandini, who looked and acted like one of Verdi's

opera villains. He fiercely hated the north. Ferrandini was a willing drinker and loud detailer of villainy. "Hutchinson" saw to it that Ferrandini's talk directly reached any northerners he could find. Baltimore's shameful reputation for disloyalty, thus nurtured, grew tremendously in the north and was at its height when Abraham Lin-

coln had bid strongly for it. There was smart competition as to which roads would "capture" the president for the rest of the journey—a great feather in the cap of the companies that won.

When the presidential train got to Philadelphia it was pretty well decided to switch to the Northern Central and make a run for it

row streets teeming with assassins who had sworn to kill him. Pinkerton even had papers in which the plots were outlined.

On the other hand, if Lincoln took the P. W. & B., he would reach Baltimore at midnight, his car would be pulled by horses over to a near-by track without his getting out of it at all and be on its way to Washington before the plotters could know what happened. So when the Northern Central Lincoln train reached Harrisburg, Judd and Lamon prevailed on the scoffing Lincoln to switch over to Felton's road. Telegraph wires to Baltimore and Philadelphia were cut to forestall dispatcher's orders or information to plotters, and the party went through to Washington without incident on the P. W. & B.

A disgusted Lincoln arrived in the cold, gray dawn. No fanfare; no VIP's in carriages—just a ride up side streets to Willard's hotel.

Felton never got his military guard for his road. He really did not need it. He did, however, get wide applause for getting Mr. Lincoln safely through the perils of Baltimore and also his road did well in the carrying business the next few years.

## Dark Doings in Baltimore

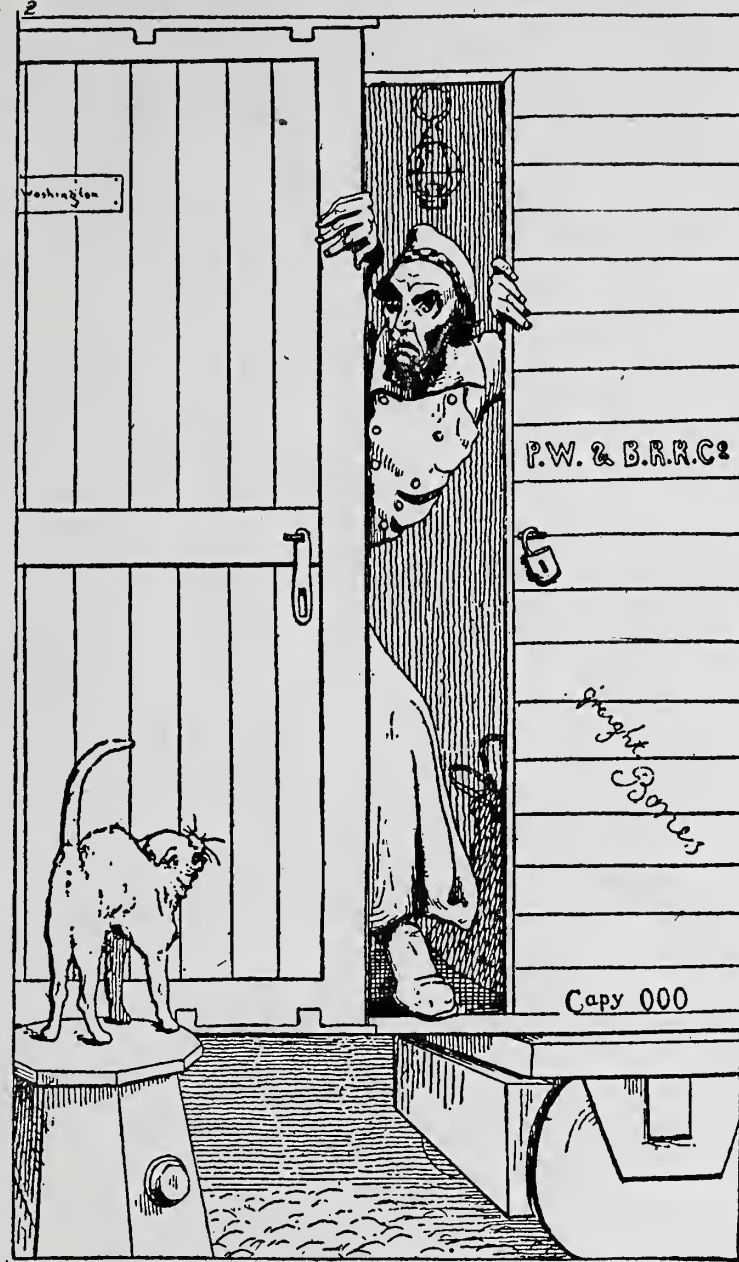
Ferrandini, the traitor-barber, never was heard of again, although Pinkerton had played him strong as a master assassin. Many other Baltimoreans were thrown into jail on charges of disloyalty, but through it all Ferrandini plied shears and razor unmolested. Everybody knew he was harmless.

What did Pinkerton get out of it? Credit for outwitting treason and saving Lincoln, although Lincoln never did believe a word of it. Also he got a good job as secret agent for Gen. McClellan, commander of the Union Army of the Potomac. As such he went to the Confederate capital, Richmond, where he and his operatives spent the fall of 1861 scaring the wits out of the North with reports of tremendous Confederate armies getting ready to strike Washington. Many of the reports had no better source than the nearest saloon, but the North still was panting as a result of the battle of Bull Run.

And the Pinkerton reports fitted well into McClellan's plan for procrastination. He did not want to fight. He preferred parades and he had very good ones, in which he rode beautifully. Naturally the North could not expect him to attack a Southern army which Pinkerton estimated at well over 200,000 men magnificently drilled and armed.

Meantime the South, with fewer than 100,000 poorly armed men, had been much worried about McClellan's big Northern army. Beauregard and Johnston were only too happy that the Union general so dearly loved parades. Allan Pinkerton was happy with his Virginia juleps. The harried Lincoln never talked about that midnight ride except privately.

MARVIN H. CREAGER.



"Lincoln's Passage Through Baltimore"—a pro-Southern cartoon of the period.

coln left Springfield for Washington.

It was a triumphal procession as far as Cincinnati. Loyal crowds were at every stop. Politicians bowed and scraped. There was high good humor everywhere. But at Cincinnati Lincoln's good friends, Norman Judd and Ward Lamon, who were managing the trip, got a portentous message from Pinkerton. The president-elect was a marked man, said Pinkerton. Danger lurked in every corner, especially in Maryland and Baltimore. That scary report kept the Lincoln train from taking the Baltimore & Ohio, which

through Harrisburg and Baltimore for Washington. Felton of the P. W. & B. was desolate, but Pinkerton made one last try. He smuggled through the street crowd a mysterious message to Judd reading: "St. Louis hotel—ask for J. H. Hutchinson."

The jittery Judd and Lamon rushed to the St. Louis hotel, and there was Pinkerton. He painted an astounding picture of things in Baltimore. If the train went via the Northern Central, Lincoln would have to transfer from one station to another in Baltimore. He would have to go by carriage through nar-



**JOHN M. CUMMINGS**

# Lincoln's Midnight Trip to Washington

**"T**HE journey of Abraham Lincoln to Washington, in 1861, as President-elect, has been the theme of many romances; but I have never seen in print the truthful story of his sudden departure from Harrisburg for the Capital."

So wrote Alexander K. McClure, a distinguished editor and publisher of Philadelphia, in 1885. The founder of the Philadelphia Times, in its day a newspaper of wide influence, Mr. McClure was closely associated with Lincoln in the campaign that sent the Illinois rail splitter to the White House at a most critical period in the Nation's history.

There had been threats that the train carrying the President-elect to Washington for the inauguration would never get through Baltimore. Lincoln, after a visit to Philadelphia, departed for Harrisburg, where he was to be the guest at a dinner attended by a number of notables including Andrew W. Curtin, who soon would be known as the war-time Governor.

"While all were intent on the enjoyment of a dinner with the new President, as the central figure of the feast," Mr. McClure, one of the guests, wrote 24 years later, "a message was brought and quietly handed to Gov. Curtin."

**C**URTIN'S expression changed from one of pleasure to one of gloom. It was quickly noted by others at the table. Lincoln, too, sensed something out of the ordinary was contained in the message.

It came from Gen. Winfield Scott and Senator Seward, who would be Secretary of State in the Lincoln Cabinet, and it warned that the President-elect was not to pass through Baltimore the following day.

The announced route from Harrisburg to Washington was to be over the old Northern Central Railroad through York and Baltimore. Told of the warning, Lincoln refused to be perturbed.

"What would the people think of their ruler stealing into his capital like a thief in the night?" Lincoln asked as his friends in Harrisburg first pleaded and then demanded or as McClure wrote, "commanded" that he consent to a change in plans. He finally consented to a secret trip to the Capital on the Pennsylvania Railroad, a journey that took him through Baltimore.

Col. McClure and Superintendent Thomas A. Scott, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, preceded the President and Gov. Curtin to the Harrisburg depot. There they arranged to have a track cleared to Philadelphia. A little later Lincoln and Curtin arrived by a circuitous route and boarded a train unobserved.



JOHN M. CUMMINGS

**T**ELEGRAPHIC instructions were sent to Philadelphia and as the train moved away the wires were cut. At Philadelphia a "trusted driver" drove the President-elect to the P. W. & B. station at Broad st. and Washington ave. There Lincoln and some trusted companions, unseen and unsuspected, boarded a train departing for Washington about midnight. It had been held briefly for his arrival.

"He (Lincoln) wore no disguise and attempted no disguise of any kind," Col. McClure wrote. "When the train entered the Washington depot the cut telegraph wires at Harrisburg were restored and the first news flashed over them was the account of Mr. Lincoln's arrival at the national capital." His passing through Baltimore was without event.

McClure's account of Lincoln's trip to the Capital first appeared in "Clover Leaves," a memorial book put out by Philadelphia's Clover Club in 1885. The club was founded three years earlier. McClure was an original member. We received copy No. 235 (400 were printed) the other day from 82-year-old Mrs. E. B. Cramp, of the shipbuilding family. She resides at 1340 W. Clearfield st. It has been a possession of the Cramps since the year of printing. Now it is in the archives of the Clover Club.



# THE BALTIMORE PLOT.

Nelson J. Waterbury on the Last  
Republican Fraud.

## THE WHOLE MATTER EXPOSED.

No. 10.      No. 11.      No. 12.

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE-GENERAL  
OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK  
October 29.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WORLD:

It has been suggested to me that it is my duty as the officer holding the same official relation to this state that Judge Holt does to the United States, to make some communication to the public upon the subject of the extraordinary proceedings at Baltimore of the military authorities of the United States, relative to alleged lands upon the votes of soldiers from this state. I yield to this suggestion, the more readily from the fact that the Judge-Advocate-General of the United States has been, according to the abolition journals, the prime mover in these proceedings. In doing so, I do not propose to limit myself to the ordinary bounds of official documents, but to treat the iniquities in question with the unreserved enormity demands.

The chosen organ of the conspirators at Washington and Baltimore is the New-York Tribune, which is not only edited by a gentleman who is the head of the Lincoln electoral ticket in this state, but is a so the medium between the conspirators and the public. The charges, as presented by the Tribune are as follows:

First. That Democratic agents from this state for collecting the votes of soldiers, have opened envelopes containing Lincoln votes, and substituted votes for McEllist.

Second. That the same agents have manufactured a large number of forged votes purporting to be cast by soldiers who, in fact, were dead, or who never existed.

It is a sufficient answer to the first charge, that the votes of all the soldiers who could be coaxed or intimidated to vote for Lincoln had been obtained and sent to this state by abolition agents, before the Democracy of this state, to our shame be it said, began to procure the votes of the Democrats. While every possible obstacle has been put, by the power at Washington, in the way of Democratic agents, Lincoln men have roamed through camps, hospitals, and ships, without limit of number or privilege. The watch of the abolition agents has been complete, and the last thing they would have permitted would have been the sending of a Lincoln vote by a Democratic agent. The pretense that the agents arrested ever had any Lincoln votes in their possession is, therefore, too absurd to need farther notice.

The other charge, to the mind of every sensible man, is equally ridiculous. If the Democrats of this state wished to forge soldiers' votes, could they not do it here better than in Baltimore or Washington? Would they be likely to have gone for that purpose to places governed by a military despotism, where government agents and pimps meet men at every corner, and from whence a "dry goods box" of votes could not be sent without being opened and examined? I trust there are few, even of the bitterest partisans or the wildest fanatics, idiotic enough to believe for a moment that a charge so preposterous could possibly be true.

Before proceeding to show how far the testimony presented by the conspirators is from sustaining their charges, let me ask, suppose all the charges were true, what has a "military commission" of the United States to do with them? The Constitution of the United States which used to be considered a document of some importance, positively forbids such a trial as has been had at Baltimore. The offense charged was not under the laws of the United States, but, on the contrary, was one provided for by the laws of this state. The statute framed and passed at the last session of our legislature by the abolitionists themselves, provided for such an offense the punishment of a fine not less than two hundred and fifty dollars and imprisonment in the county jail not less than four months. If the ballot-box of this state was endangered, we were able to protect ourselves. At every election district in this state there are officers and citizens of both parties ready and able to guard the ballot-box without any aid from the abolition cabal at Washington or General Doubleday's "military commission." The most absurd part of the whole transaction, however, is General Doubleday's reason for

deciding that his "military commission" was authorized to try the offense. It was that, if a military commission could not try it, no court could, and therefore it could not be tried at all. Every man ought to know that the reason stated is no reason at all, and even our school boys knew that some of the most depraved murderers have escaped punishment for their crimes because there was no way to punish them. General Doubleday's pretense that his military commission could try Donohue because, as he claims, no civil court could, would certainly remind "Father Abraham" of a "old story." It would be the one we have all heard so often, of a man who sold a dog, representing him to be a squirrel-dog, because he knew he was good for nothing else. The proceedings of General Doubleday's military commission were clearly a usurpation.

More than this; if such a trial was to be had, it should have been conducted with at least some appearance of decency and fairness. On the contrary, the Tribune says that General Doubleday's "military commission" was ordered by the Secretary of War to immediately proceed with the trial of Edward Donohue, Jr., "and the Times added, in advance of the trial, that the court would "make short work of the case." So a young man, charged with a serious offense, was prevented from seeing his friends, denied the privilege of bail, and pushed to trial without a day's notice, without counsel and without witnesses! What a mockery of the sacred name of justice!

And what was the result? Donohue, with a backness that did him credit, admitted at the beginning of the trial that he had signed to certain voting papers the name of C. S. Arthur, captain, &c., as the certifying officer. And what he thus admitted was all that could be proved against him. With all the power of the government, with a shameless court, with an insensate prosecuting officer, with corrupt stool-pigeons as witnesses against him, with an utter violation of the rules of evidence, and with a result determined before the trial was commenced, the conspirators were able to prove against him just what he had admitted, and nothing more. I proceed to analyze and set in the most thorough manner, the evidence they presented:

First, I premise, for a better understanding of the case, that, for a soldier to vote, he must sign a proxy before a subscribing witness, and swear to it before an officer in the volunteer service; and then inclose this proxy and his vote, in an envelope, on which is to be indorsed an affidavit of his qualification as a voter, stating the company and regiment to which he belongs, which must also be sworn to before an officer in the volunteer service, and inclosed in an outside envelope, addressed to the person named as proxy. In this array, among the fighters, there is no difficulty in procuring officers to administer the oaths; but these around the hospitals are mostly abolition tools, and it is very difficult for Democrats in the hospitals to procure an officer to take their affidavits. The signing of the name of a fictitious person as an officer to thirty sets of such papers, bad enough to be sure, was all the conspirators could prove against young Donohue—and this was just what he frankly admitted at once. And this wrong he committed under the importunities of two abolition stool-pigeons, who had deceived him to Baltimore; and under the pressure of a necessity to leave immediately for City Point, on other and more important business. Wrong and foolish as he was, he is yet far above the miserable conspirators who first lured and then rushed him to ruin.

Who were the witnesses against him? Let us see the men who were used to convict him by the abolition conspirators:

1. *Miss J. Ferry*, described by the Tribune as

a "venerable looking man," who "seemed to be hiding under great depression." He is manifestly a rancorous villain. I am credibly informed that he has always been an abolitionist, and that he obtained the Baltimore agency for sick and wounded soldiers through the influence of John F. Seymour, the governor's brother, a Christian philanthropist and most worthy gentleman, but one who is easily imposed upon by those he meets in Sunday-schools and lecture-rooms. If Ferry is to be believed, he (Ferry) was the real criminal, but he is to go free without a trial.

2. *Oreille K. Wood*, an abolitionist, from the neighborhood of old John Brown's home. He was sent to Baltimore by the abolition committees of Clinton county, and, upon his own testimony, told one of the most paltry stock-pigeons ever known. He testifies that he also did just what Donohue did, but he is to go unpunished.

3. *Edward Newcomb*, a young Democrat and lawyer from Albany, who, being and feeling grabbed up by the military power, was thrust out of his wits. The Tribune suppresses his testimony and charges that he turned States

evidence. In truth, however, he proved nothing more than Donohue frankly admitted.

So much for the witnesses. I will now examine their testimony; which, I submit to the judgment of every candid man, not only fails to prove anything against the Democratic party, but does prove a conspiracy, a base and infamous conspiracy, on the part of the abolition cabal at Washington.

The first item of proof is a letter from Ferry to Governor Seymour, dated October 14, in which Ferry says:

You may depend on one thing: There will be duplicates of the votes of all the soldiers' votes that the Democrats get. I have seen enough to satisfy me that the opposition set down, and fill up, and sign and add and officer, and do it all complete without a single man. It will be one of the raggedest elections ever held on this continent.

Truly yours, M. J. Ferry.

Was this statement true or false? If true, the abolitionists, by the testimony of their own witnesses, were engaged in forging duplicates to neutralize the votes cast by Democratic soldiers. If false, what was Ferry's object in making it; or rather the object of those who prompted it, for he was evidently a tool in the hands of sinister men. They doubtless calculated that the astounding revelation it purported to make would induce the governor (or his secretary, for the governor was absent from Albany) to communicate the letter to the Democratic politicians, and would induce the latter to attempt to offset the frauds by manufacturing votes for the other side. This view is strengthened by the fact that, as appears by a letter from Donohue to Newcomb, put in evidence on the part of the conspirators, dated at Albany, October 17, Donohue arrived in Albany on the 16th. The conspirators doubtless knew that Donohue was going to Albany, and said to themselves: "Gaffer will read Ferry's letter, and he will speak to Donohue about it, and instruct him to inquire into the matter, and see that enough votes are made for Lincoln." They were mistaken, however, for, as will presently be shown, Donohue went through to Washington on his way to City Point without stopping at Baltimore.

Wood, the Clinton county abolitionist, now appears on the stage. Ferry testifies that he "first saw Wood" on Wednesday, the 19th of October. On that same day Ferry wrote to John F. Seymour as follows:

I have been so as to what you wish me to do. I have not yet returned a soldier just such a letter as I wanted, but I had never could get them. I have written votes when I had none. The manner in which I have conducted it, has, I am satisfied, done the governor more good than to have any given out Democratic votes.

M. J. Ferry. What was the object of this apologetic letter, but to have had some object? Taking this and his former letter, quoted above, together, and it is evident that Ferry had been at work in the interest of the abolitionists. The conspirators were afraid that complaints might have been made at Albany, which would lead to Ferry's removal from the agency before they had consummated their plot. Therefore they appealed to John F. Seymour, a man of great kindness of heart, under an expectation that he would speak to his brother-in-law's agent, and keep him in office.

Wood testifies that he spent his first two or three days in Baltimore at Fort McHenry, where he met a Captain McDermott, who remarked, in a conversation about soldiers' voting, "I can tell you I have been some checker-plinging." So it appears that there was some truth in Ferry's letter to the governor about the frauds of the abolitionists. McDermott's remark, and something Wood heard at the Newton University Hospital (that what it was he does not state), he says, induced him to visit Ferry's office.

This first visit, as above stated, was on Wednesday, the 19th of October.

Ferry says, positively, and the fact may be found in the fact, that it is a crushing one to the conspirators, that he does not recollect the first time the first papers were forged, but it was in the presence of O. K. Wood, of Clinton county (an abolitionist); it was done in my office. All the papers, therefore, were forged after Wood's visit to Ferry's office on Wednesday, the 19th of October. It appears, as above stated, that Donohue went Albany on the afternoon of that same day, Wednesday, the 19th. He went straight through to Washington. Newcomb testified that he saw Donohue in Washington on Thursday, where we were to remain till Saturday, and then came back together. It appears also, from the testimony of Wood, that the first time he saw Donohue in Baltimore was on that Saturday afternoon.

While Donohue and Newcomb were together in Washington, and Ferry and Wood were together in Baltimore, what were the latter couple doing? Wood testifies that, when he first called at Ferry's office, he gave the latter to "understand" that he (Wood) belonged to the McEllist party, and "Ferry desired to know if he had a commission from Governor Seymour?" He (Wood) re-







## LINCOLN'S JOURNEY.

### The Martyr President's Memorable Trip to Washington.

The first conspiracy of the rebellion, says Leonard Swett in a recent article, was for the abduction of James Buchanan, then president of the United States. Its object was to hold him as a hostage, in order to effect more easily terms of compromise with the north. The plan was to kidnap Buchanan, take him out of Washington, and, as he disappeared, to inaugurate Breckenridge president. The leader of it was Mr. Wigfall, then senator from Texas, but it failed for want of unity of purpose. On Christmas day, 1860, Wigfall went to the house of Mr. Floyd, secretary of war, taking other gentlemen with him. Mr. Floyd heard the emissaries through, and then, in a most emphatic manner, refused to have anything to do with such a conspiracy. Disappointed in Floyd's conclusion and action, Wigfall lost his temper and disported himself in a boisterous manner. This conspiracy was mainly made up of southern people, but embraced prominent men at Washington and some in New York. It was the only one formed during the rebellion which had anything in it except crime. This had a logical, sensible purpose, and who can measure or define the difference to this country whether it had succeeded or not?

The next conspiracy was to kill President Lincoln at Baltimore, on his way to Washington to be inaugurated. At that time the journey of the president to Washington had become something of a triumphal march, and in the passage of Mr. Lincoln large assemblages convened along the route at the prominent towns where he made speeches. The plan of his journey took him to Harrisburg Feb. 22, and through Baltimore to Washington on the 23d, passing Baltimore about 11 o'clock in the morning and arriving at Washington later the same day.

At that time there lived in Chicago a man by the name of Allen Pinkerton, the president of a detective agency there, and of other co-operative branches in the principal cities of the United States. He was a man of real integrity, and stood well with the prominent men of the country, and he and his force were often employed by the railroads and express companies in ferreting out crimes. Early in the year 1861, Mr. Pinkerton, at Chicago, received a letter from Samuel H. Felton, then president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore railroad, requesting his presence in Philadelphia. Going there, he was told that the company had learned that schemes were on foot for the injury of their railroad and the obstruction of travel. Communication with the north could be cut off in this manner, and by the destruction of bridges along this line of railroad, or of ferry boats, which transmitted the trains at Havre de Grace. Mr. Pinkerton visited various points along the road, and stationed his men, among other places, at Perryville, Havre de Grace, and Baltimore. He found all desire to injure the road resulted from a wish to prevent the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, and the ultimate design of this contemplated disturbance was purely political.

With a view to penetrate this plot, Mr. Pinkerton stationed men of fine address and appearance at the leading hotels in Baltimore, they claim-

ing to have come from New Orleans and other southern cities, where they were actually familiar with the localities in such cities, and, going to Baltimore himself, instructed them to assume the appearance of secessionists, wear secession badges, talk secession talk, mingle with secession men, and report to him at his office in that city, approaching by an alley. One of these was Timothy R. Shafter, who was afterward hanged as a union spy in Richmond, Va. These men attended secession meetings, floated with the tide of public opinion, joined in the conspiracy itself, assisted in the formation of a design to assassinate the president, and attended the meetings at which the men were selected for the act of killing. Mr. Pinkerton had also a lady, who represented herself as being from Montgomery, Ala., where she had actually lived, and she moved in society in Baltimore to learn what the ladies had to say on the subject.

The plan there matured was, when the train should arrive upon the railroad from Harrisburg, at 11 o'clock in the morning, for these conspirators to collect at the depot, where Mr. Lincoln would be, and that a riot should be excited and Mr. Lincoln killed in the confusion. By the time these facts had been ascertained he had reached New York on his way from Springfield to Washington. Pinkerton left Baltimore and went to Philadelphia, where he met Mr. Judd, from Chicago, and of the president's party, and late in the evening of the 21st made known the facts above stated to him and Mr. Lincoln.

Gen. Winfield Scott was then commander in chief of the army of the United States, and in that capacity had charge of Mr. Lincoln's inauguration. It was his duty to see that that inauguration took place peaceably. News of this conspiracy having come to his knowledge, he placed the details of the investigation in the hands of his inspector general, Col. Charles P. Stone, who took prompt measures for the protection of Mr. Lincoln.

It is doubtful if there was any time during the war in which there was not in Washington, Baltimore, or in that general vicinity, some conspiracy in existence to capture or injure Mr. Lincoln. On one occasion, in the summer of 1863, if I remember rightly, the writer of this article had occasion, with William H. Hanna of Bloomington, Ill., to ride to the Soldiers' home, about four miles from Washington, to call upon Mr. Lincoln in the evening. Our driver missed the way, passing by the home into the forest below. Being once in the intricacies of this labyrinth, we did not get out until 2 o'clock in the morning, and the question arose why the rebels might not send a force across the river, and, coming up in the woods to the Soldiers' home, capture Mr. Lincoln and carry him within the enemy's lines. Mr. Hanna was very much concerned in reference to the situation, and I said to him: "You go and talk with Mr. Lincoln; you are a new man." The subject of his capture or assassination had been discussed until it was a sore subject between Mr. Lincoln and his friends. So, the next day, we got Marshal Lamon, and the three obtained an audience with the president.

From Philadelphia to Washington Mr. Lincoln journeyed in the rear part of a car, which, divided off by a curtain, had been engaged by Pinkerton's lady for a sick brother, and Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Lamon, Mr. Pinkerton, and the lady occupied this part of the sleeper for the journey.

They left Philadelphia about 11 o'clock. Not a soul except the four people in the rear end of the car and the few at the dinner party at Harrisburg, knew that Mr. Lincoln had left that city or was on his way to Washington.

He could not, of course, take a large number of persons with him without attracting attention and betraying his presence, and therefore reduced his arrangements for defense upon that journey to the smallest possible compass by the selection of Ward H. Lamon as his only companion. Lamon was a native of Virginia, who had come to Danville, Ill., at an early day, and for many years had practiced law as the partner of Lincoln on the circuit at that place. He was all over a Virginian, and strong, stout and athletic—a Hercules in stature, tapering from his broad shoulders to his heels, and the handsomest man, physically, I ever saw. He was skilled in all the ways of the manly art, 34 years of age, six feet high, and, although cautious and prudent, was thoroughly courageous and bold. He wore that night two ordinary pistols, two derringers, and two large knives. You could put no more elements of attack or defense in a human skin than there were in Lamon and his armory on that occasion.

Mr. Lincoln selected him for this place because the two were wholly unlike, and each admired in the other qualities he himself did not possess. Lincoln knew the shedding the last drop of blood in his defense would be the most delightful act of Lamon's life, and that in him he had a regiment, armed and drilled for the most efficient service.

Having taken possession of the rear end of their car the conductor was handed a package of papers for which he had been instructed by telegram to wait. It is not true that Lincoln wore a Scotch cap, or used any other mode of disguise. All the persons accompanying him were dressed in ordinary dress, and went simply as private citizens.

They arrived at Baltimore at 3 o'clock and waited there, because of some ordinary detention, about two hours. Before the train left workmen began to come around, and one was heard to say, with expletives, that "Old Lincoln was coming here today, but I don't believe he will get through alive." Mr. Lincoln laughed heartily at the remark, and soon the train pulled out, and a little after daylight he reached Washington.

During the rebellion occasional confirmations crept out as to the existence and real purposes of the conspiracy. Shortly after being appointed marshal of the District of Columbia Mr. Lamon arrested a very bad and notorious man in Washington. This man believed himself to be in danger on account of a political offense he had committed, and was greatly alarmed, and Lamon, whose perceptions were keen and clear, discovered from his conversation that he knew something of moment, and consequently cultivated him and finally said to him frankly if he would tell him all he knew he would endeavor to shield him from the charge on which he was arrested. The man did so, and his disclosures confirmed fully the existence of the conspiracy in Baltimore. He named many of the men engaged in it, and stated that the purposes of it were to kill Mr. Lincoln in the riot and confusion created at the depot.

Again, later on in the war, Lamon had occasion to arrest a notorious and dangerous man in Baltimore. The



circumstances of his arrest were simply terrific, but finally he was captured, and during his confinement made to Lamon a confession of the conspiracy at Baltimore, and named many parties engaged in it. He also said that the purposes of this conspiracy were to kill Mr. Lincoln.

"I can not be shut up in an iron cage and guarded," he said. "If I have business at the war office, I must take my hat and go there; and if to kill me is within the purposes of this rebellion, no precaution can prevent it. You may guard me at a single point, but I will necessarily be exposed to others. People come to see me every day and I receive them, and I do not know but that some of them are secessionists or engaged in plots to kill me. The truth is, if any man has made up his mind that he will give his life for mine, he can take mine."

We argued that, while this was true, it was his duty to the country not unnecessarily to expose himself; that there being no guard at the Soldiers' home, and the condition of the country below as described, it was recklessness on his part to go there and be there without a guard.

He raised various objections, and finally we said: "Somebody must do something if anything is done. Will you leave it to us three to make such disposition as we think to be prudent, and will you simply acquiesce in what we do?" Finally, in substance, he assented, and we went to Secretary Stanton and got for him the guard of cavalry, which accompanied him every evening from the White House to the Soldiers' home, and remained at the home all night and came in with him in the morning.

Mr. Lamon's official duties embraced the safety of the president, and these facts, with many others, made a deep impression upon his mind. During the fall of 1864 I was a guest at his house nearly three months. During that time he did not sleep at home a single night, but left his house about 10 o'clock, went to the White House, and with a guard which he stationed there, and without Mr. Lincoln's knowledge, remained during the night. At the time of the assassination Lamon was, unfortunately, out of the city, and his absence occurred in this wise: Mr. Lincoln had just returned from Richmond, and having inaugurated some steps looking toward the holding of a convention to get that state back into the union, he asked Lamon, being a Virginian, to go to Richmond and attend this convention. The following is the pass which he gave him:

"Allow the bearer, Ward H. Lamon, and friend, with ordinary baggage, to pass from Washington to Richmond and return.

"April 11, 1865. A. LINCOLN."

Lamon said to the president, as he separated from him: "Make me one promise."

"What is that?" said the president, "perhaps I can."

"I want you to promise not to go to the theater during my absence."

"Well," said he, after some conversation, "I will do the best I can," then turning to John P. Usher, who was present at the interview, he said in substance, "My friend is crazy on the subject of my assassination."

When Mr. Seward first became conscious after the attack upon him, he said, "Where was Col. Lamon?" If he had been in the city this would not have happened." He repeated this remark often afterward.

But Mr. Lincoln did go to the theater on the night of the eventful 14th, and the stealthy tread of the murderer followed him. There was a pistol shot which echoed throughout the land louder than the cannon's roar, and a murderous horseman dashed into the night. A tall man, wounded and limp, was carried to the nearest house and stretched upon his bed to die. Men who had faced death where the fire danced along the weird line of battle without blanching, stood around his bed and wept. The blood oozed from his head until it soaked through the bed and dropped from the under side. Toward morning there was a convulsive struggle and the spirit of Abraham Lincoln passed to where the angel at the gate said:

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—December 7, 1887.

The Trip from Philadelphia in 1861 As  
Described by Allan Pinkerton, in  
1866.

"Although Mr. Lincoln did not sleep he was by no means restless. I could not then nor have I since been able to understand how anyone under like circumstances, could have manifested such complete mental composure and cheerful spirits as he exhibited during the entire journey. On arriving at the Bal-

"As the train neared the Capital City (it was then daylight, and we were making the necessary preparations for our orderly appearance on our arrival at the Washington depot.) Mr. Lincoln yawned, and, turning toward Lamont and me, said with a smile, 'Well boys, thank God this prayer-meeting's over.' Then he told a story to emphasize the fact that he was now at the end of his perilous journey and no longer needed our aid or companionship. A steamboat, on one occasion, ran into a sand-bar in the river with such force and became so deeply embedded in the obstruction, it was found impossible, with the methods and appliances then in vogue to move her. The only other remedy left was to wait—and no one could tell how long that would be—till the high waters should come and float her away. Meanwhile there happened to be a revival in progress at the church in a village on shore, opposite the point where the helpless vessel lay. Yielding to the entreaties of the church people, the captain one day consented that a prayer-meeting might be held in the cabin or large room of the boat. The meeting had not progressed very far until the vessel, yielding to the movements of the crowd and the additional weight at one end, began to lurch slightly, and presently slid off the

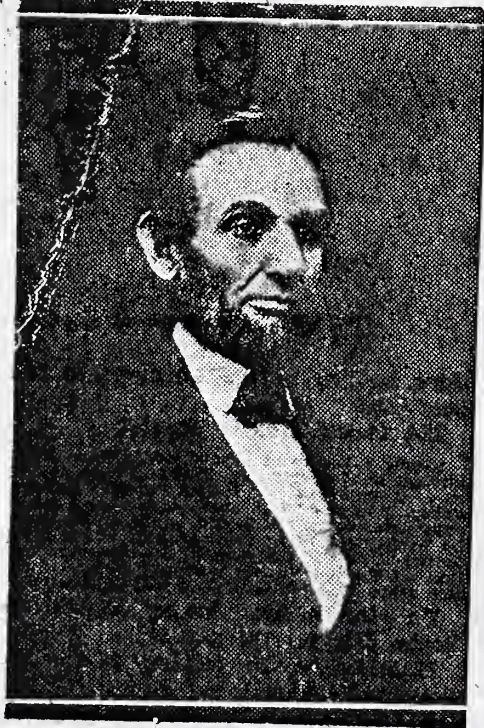
"At the depot, waiting us as the train rolled in, were Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, and Senator Seward. We then proceeded at once to Willard's Hotel, where Mr. Lincoln registered his own name and that of Mr. Lamon and myself, and was assigned rooms, though not those he expected he would have, as he had arrived somewhat in advance of the appointed time. During the morning after the news of his arrival had spread, there was more or less excited talk. Few men were willing to believe he had actually reached the city, and many were the vile and bitter imprecations I heard heaped upon his head while mingling with the crowds in the hotels and public places of that rebellious city. Its people, as a rule, appeared scarcely more favorable to the Union than in Baltimore. Mrs. Lincoln accompanied by Mr. Judd and the rest of the party followed in due time. Before they left Harrisburg, the news had been telegraphed all over the country of the safe arrival of the President-elect in Washington. In passing through Baltimore, they met with anything but a cordial reception. At Mr. Lincoln's suggestion I returned to Baltimore that afternoon for the purpose of learning whether those who sought his life in that city might not amend their plot so as to attempt to destroy him on the day of his inauguration; and I accordingly remained there till after the latter event was over." American Magazine.



## Many Threats of Assassination Had Already Reached Lincoln

THERE were cries of cowardice and less ridicule, but the most sensible things about Mr. Lincoln's trip to his inauguration was this quiet and unexpected entrance into Washington. For weeks before he left Springfield threats of assassination had been reaching him. Mr. Seward had begged him to come unannounced to the capital, and earlier than had been planned. Public opinion was so disquieted in Illinois that citizens took it upon themselves to guard the bridges over which his train crossed. The very morning of his departure a message had come from Gen. Scott, urging Mrs. Lincoln and the children to accompany her husband—as a protection. Her plan had been to remain in Springfield for some days before going on to Washington, but Gen. Scott's representation was such that she rushed after Mr. Lincoln by the first train, joining him in Indianapolis. Repeatedly en route ugly rumors had reached Mr. Judd. With Maryland naturally inflamed as it was at that moment, it was entirely in accord with what we know of human beings that hot-headed, irresponsible men or groups of men might plan vic-

turns of the election. As he studied them, he sensed the weak and the strong spots, and realizing the co-operation he must have to strengthen the weak and not weaken the strong, he had set down then the names of the men who he believed would best serve the great purpose of the Republican party, of holding the country taut against the extension of slavery. That slate was in his pocket now. It had had some exciting experiences, names had been erased and been written in again, a long list of alternates had been put down, but when he reached Washington on the morning of February 23, 1861, it was practically the slate of the night of November 6, 1860. The great attack on it, however, was now to come, could he stand it—hold to his judgeship? That is our next inquiry.



Abraham Lincoln at the time of his inauguration.

lence, and if they did, and did it cunningly, no amount of official surveillance could have stopped them. It never has, and never will.

As for cowardice, Mr. Lincoln had amply proved his courage by carrying out to the last detail the full program of the last twelve days.

He was in Washington, but he would never be inaugurated, the alarmists were still saying. Mr. Lincoln was not thinking, however, of Inaugural Day, not even of what he would say then. He knew that. One supreme matter occupied him. Nearly four months before he had sat alone, save for the operators, in the telegraph office of Springfield, Ill., examining thoughtfully one by one as they came in the re-

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# HER HUSBAND SAVED LINCOLN FROM AN ASSASSIN'S BOMB

SPRINGFIELD, O., Feb.

8.—The latest and most important addition to Lincoln biography is the statement of Mrs. Mary Coggeshall,

who says her husband saved the emancipator from death on a railway train in Baltimore.

She comes of a prominent family and her husband, now dead, was one of the closest friends of Lincoln, who after the war sent him as minister to Ecuador. His wife's story, made

public today, is as follows:

"Lincoln was going to Washington to take office after his first election, and Coggeshall joined him at Columbus, Ohio. At Harrisburg, Pa., word reached them that an attempt to assassinate Lincoln would be made at Baltimore. Immediately extraordinary precautions were taken, and a pilot engine preceded the train to see that the track was clear.

"Lincoln and Coggeshall were changing cars at Baltimore, when the latter saw a hissing bomb in a seat of the car they were leaving. Without an instant's hesitation he shoved the President-elect on to the platform, grabbed the bomb, and flung

it through the window. So far as any one knows it never exploded.

"Lincoln stood silent a moment; then he said: 'Coggeshall, did I not tell you that if you came with me I should come safely. God knows best.'

" 'Mr. President,' said Coggeshall, 'let us not give this incident to the world to be criticised. It is too holy for that. It is from God.' "

It was then agreed that the matter should be kept a secret, but Coggeshall in after years told his wife, and she, believing that such an important addition to history should not perish, has taken the occasion of the approaching Lincoln centennial to make it public.

### Mr. Lincoln's Prophetic Vision.

The tragical end of our late lamented President has brought to mind the prophetic words used by him on the occasion of the raising of the American flag on the Hall of Independence, on the 22d of February, 1861. These words have become immortal, and as the writer stood close by the side of the Martyr President when he uttered them, and, as the former has since become familiar with the circumstances under which they were uttered, he has thought proper to put his recollections in permanent shape, as a portion of the history of the stirring times in which we live, and as a reminiscence of the past that cannot fail to be interesting at this mournful crisis.

Mr. Lincoln was received in Philadelphia on the 21st of February, 1861, having arrived from New York. He came to the Kensington depot in the afternoon and was escorted to the Continental Hotel, which place he reached just before night-fall. His formal reception and welcome to the city took place upon the balcony upon the Chestnut street front of the building, Mayor Henry acting as the organ and representative of the city, and the President elect responding to the remarks of the Mayor. We occupied a place upon the balcony, and we shall never forget the vast surging mass of humanity in the street below us, the sea of upturned faces and wild cries of the excited multitude; the effect of the whole, heightened by the rapid approach of night, and the falling of snow-flakes from the lowering clouds, portending a storm. During the evening Mr. Lincoln placed himself in a position inside the hotel, where he could be seen by the people, and thousands of his fellow-citizens availed themselves of the opportunity to pass through the house and to gaze upon the man whom they had chosen to control the helm of state during the Presidential term that was expected to be stormy; but that no one anticipated was to resemble that described in Shakespeare's "Tempest," where Hell was emptied, and all the devils sent to afflict the storm-worn mariners. At the close of this general reception, Mr. Lincoln was hurried to his private apartment in the hotel, where Superintendent of Police Kennedy, of New York, was in waiting to inform him of the plot that had been discovered

to murder him as he passed through Baltimore, and where the plan of going to Harrisburg, returning to Philadelphia the same night, and proceeding at once secretly to the Capital was determined upon. In view of the butchery of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment in the streets of the Monumental City in the following month, and the foul murder of the President himself four years later, by a Baltimore-born assassin, we can only say, God help those professed loyalists who threw the slime of their mean ridicule upon the doomed President for pursuing the course that was prompted by the simplest dictates of prudence.

It had been arranged that a new flag should be raised upon the Hall of Independence on the day following the arrival of the President elect, (Washington's Birthday) and Mr. Lincoln had promised to raise it. The ceremony took place soon after day-break, and early as the hour was, the crowd was vast. The old flag was just then entering upon its baptism of blood in the South, and as the folds of that raised by Mr. Lincoln caught the early gleams of the sun, as the President elect hauled upon the halyards, the air was rent with patriotic shouts, and tears were freely shed.

Before the ceremony of raising the flag was performed, the President elect was received by the city authorities in the Hall of Independence. The scene and the attendant circumstances were memorable, and they will become historical. Mr. Lincoln stood immediately in front of the statue of Washington, with his back against the railing which surrounds it. The reporters were clustered close about him for the purpose of catching whatever remarks should fall from his lips. In a semi-circle in front stood the members of the City Councils and the Philadelphia Committee of Reception. Mr. Theodore Cnyler, then President of Select Council, made the formal speech of welcome in his usual precise manner, and the President elect responded to his remarks. Mr. Lincoln was evidently under the influence of deep emotion. The place, the surrounding circumstances, the time, and his threatened assassination, all had their effect, and, as we now understand things, accounted for his almost rambling and disconnected oratory. He spoke of the associations connected with the old Hall, of the Declaration of Independence, of the immortal instrument containing a great principle that had kept the confederacy of States so long together, and in this connection he said:

"It was something in the Declaration of Independence giving liberty, not only to the people of this country, but hope to the world for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights should be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that *all* should have an equal chance. \* \* Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle—"

Mr. Lincoln then hesitated a moment, and with the knowledge of the dark crime contemplated at Baltimore, and a prophetic glance, perhaps, at what did finally occur, pressing upon his mind, he continued: "*I was about to say I would rather be assassinated upon this spot than to surrender it.*"

He vindicated that great principle nobly,

and he finally died a martyr to it. His ashes are about to come back to the sacred spot where, four years ago, he declared his advocacy of the principles of freedom and human rights, and his willingness to die in their support. The sacrifice has been made, and the Hall of Independence will have no nobler or more hallowed associations connected with it than the utterances of Abraham Lincoln, made there upon the birthday of Washington, 1861, and the fact that four years later the mutilated body of the martyr of freedom rested there for a time.

"— The rains of the noblest man  
That ever lived in the tide of time,  
Wee to the hand that shed this costly blood."



## 1861 PLOT TO KILL LINCOLN FOILED

President - Elect Smuggled  
Through This City by Pinkerton to Secret Train

### TELEGRAPH WIRES CUT

More than four years before President Lincoln was assassinated, a similar plot against his life was frustrated. This was when Lincoln, then President-elect, was on his way to Washington for his inauguration.

Precautions included a secret train from Harrisburg, a devious drive through streets of this city in a closed and guarded carriage, the holding of the night express to Baltimore from Broad and Washington av. for its distinguished and threatened passenger, and the severing of all telegraphic wires from Harrisburg south and east to Washington from 6 o'clock of the evening of February 22 until 6 o'clock of the morning of the 23d.

The discovery of the plot was made by Allan Pinkerton, chief of Lincoln's secret service men during the war, while he was in Baltimore investigating a plot to destroy the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad.

Lincoln reached Philadelphia on February 21 to raise a flag at Independence Hall on the following day, Washington's Birthday. He was advised to cancel this engagement and proceed that night to Washington, but declined. In addition to the flag raising he had an appointment with Governor Curtin at Harrisburg in the afternoon. He kept both.

During the day on February 22 railroad officials of the Pennsylvania and P. W. & B. railroads met at the latter's station, Broad and Washington av. (then Prime st.) and made all arrangements. The train from Baltimore to Washington was to be held at Baltimore for Lincoln. The 10.50 Baltimore express from this city was to be delayed until Lincoln could be transferred from his special on the Pennsylvania Railroad from Harrisburg at 32d and Market sts.

Lincoln left the Jones House, Harrisburg, about 6 o'clock, where he had talked with Governor Curtin, and drove to his special train, a baggage and passenger car only.

Thomas A. Scott, then vice president of the P. R. R., later to become

its president, then ordered all telegraphic communication cut off for 12 hours. This was done by actually cutting the wires east and south. No chances were taken on a leakage of the movements of the train that way.

The train arrived at 32d and Market sts. shortly after 10 o'clock where Pinkerton met Lincoln, together with Superintendent Kenney of the P. W. & B. The latter had instructed the conductor of the Baltimore express not to leave until he was handed "an important package" to be delivered in Washington the next day. The conductor had no idea what the "package" was.

At the 32d st. station, Lincoln entered a closed carriage with Pinkerton and Colonel Lamont. Kenney was on the outside seat with the driver. The plan was not to reach Broad and Washington av. until a few minutes after the scheduled departure of the 10.50 night express, which, of course, was being secretly held.

The carriage proceeded down Market st. over the Schuylkill bridge to 19th st., north on 19th to Vine, turned down Vine to 17th and then proceeded slowly as though its occupants were looking for someone.

Near the P. W. & B. Station, the carriage turned into Carpenter st. and Lincoln got out in the shadow of the station yard fence. Pinkerton took Lincoln across the yard to his sleeping car, while Kenney, going alone, delivered a decoy parcel to the conductor which he thought he had been waiting for.

The trip to Baltimore was made without incident and, Pinkerton being told there that everything was "all right," proceeded on to Washington where the train arrived at 6 o'clock.

At that hour the severed telegraph wires were repaired and the first message was from Washington to Colonel Scott in Harrisburg. It was "Plums delivered nuts safely," a code agreed upon to announce the safe arrival of Lincoln.

# Lincoln Entourage Got Word of Plot While in Buffalo

**THEY HAD THEIR HOUR.** By Marquis James. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.75.

**I**T WAS in Buffalo back in February, 1861, that word of a plot against the life of Abraham Lincoln, on his way from Springfield, Ill., to Washington, D. C., for his inauguration reached the president-elect's entourage. Baltimore was to have been the scene of the attempted assassination.

While the Great Emancipator was being received and greeted with vociferous acclaim in this city, Norman B. Judd, a member of the Lincoln party and one of Lincoln's closest friends, received the news in a letter from Allen Pinkerton, then a detective for the Philadelphia, Wilmington, & Baltimore railroad, that the president-elect's life might be in great jeopardy if he attempted to pass through the Maryland city. As Pinkerton had gathered, the plotters were prepared to take Lincoln's life as he rode in a carriage from one railroad station to the other in Baltimore.

Mr. Pinkerton's letter said he was not sure of all his facts. He would investigate further, he wrote, and make a full report when the Lincoln party reached Philadelphia.

In the meantime Buffalo's demonstration of welcome and homage continued. It was so enthusiastic that Maj. Hunter of Lincoln's staff became a casualty in attempting to stem the impetuous rush of thousands who desired to shake Lincoln's hand. One of Hunter's arms was broken.

The Lincoln party left Buffalo and went to Philadelphia after a stop in New York city where the president-elect was warmly received. Pinkerton met Judd and the detective presented sufficient evidence of the plot to convince Judd of the seriousness of the situation. The immediate difficulty was to make Lincoln see the danger. It was decided that Judd and Pinkerton would present the matter to Lincoln. He, after much parrying, decided to place himself in the hands of Judd and the detective, but not before he carried out his official program in Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

In the midst of the governor's dinner to the president-elect in Harrisburg, Lincoln slipped quietly away, was hastened aboard a special train and speeded southward closely guarded. The special went through Baltimore early in the morning. No untoward event happened. At dawn the little party reached Washington.

"Well, boys," said Lincoln to the members of his special party, "thank God this prayer meeting is over."

This Lincoln story is one of a dozen or more anecdotes on men and events which stand out in the progress of this country told by Marquis James in "They Had Their Hour."

William Kidd, who has a chapter in this book, was a very estimable gentleman for the greater part of his life. He was literally dragged out of retirement to help rid the seas of pirates and when he discovered that piracy oftentimes was very profitable he did a little of it on his own account. He paid with a dangle—that is, hanging. Treachery, Mr. James points out, had something to do with his ignominious end.

Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, Maj. Andre, Benedict Arnold and others also have their chapters in this volume, a vivid and colorful picture of men and happenings in America.



## LINCOLN'S JOURNEY.

### The Martyr President's Memorable Trip to Washington.

The first conspiracy of the rebellion, says Leonard Swett in a recent article, was for the abduction of James Buchanan, then president of the United States. Its object was to hold him as a hostage, in order to effect more easily terms of compromise with the north. The plan was to kidnap Buchanan, take him out of Washington, and, as he disappeared, to inaugurate Breckenridge president. The leader of it was Mr. Wigfall, then senator from Texas, but it failed for want of unity of purpose. On Christmas day, 1860, Wigfall went to the house of Mr. Floyd, secretary of war, taking other gentlemen with him. Mr. Floyd heard the emissaries through, and then, in a most emphatic manner, refused to have anything to do with such a conspiracy. Disappointed in Floyd's conclusion and action, Wigfall lost his temper and disported himself in a boisterous manner. This conspiracy was mainly made up of southern people, but embraced prominent men at Washington and some in New York. It was the only one formed during the rebellion which had anything in it except crime. This had a logical, sensible purpose, and who can measure or define the difference to this country whether it had succeeded or not?

The next conspiracy was to kill President Lincoln at Baltimore, on his way to Washington to be inaugurated. At that time the journey of the president to Washington had become something of a triumphal march, and in the passage of Mr. Lincoln large assemblages convened along the route at the prominent towns where he made speeches. The plan of his journey took him to Harrisburg Feb. 22, and through Baltimore to Washington on the 23d, passing Baltimore about 11 o'clock in the morning and arriving at Washington later the same day.

At that time there lived in Chicago a man by the name of Allen Pinkerton, the president of a detective agency there, and of other co-operative branches in the principal cities of the United States. He was a man of real integrity, and stood well with the prominent men of the country, and he and his force were often employed by the railroads and express companies in ferreting out crimes. Early in the year 1861, Mr. Pinkerton, at Chicago, received a letter from Samuel H. Felton, then president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore railroad, requesting his presence in Philadelphia. Going there, he was told that the company had learned that schemes were on foot for the injury of their railroad and the obstruction of travel. Communication with the north could be cut off in this manner, and by the destruction of bridges along this line of railroad, or of ferry boats, which transmitted the trains at Havre de Grace. Mr. Pinkerton visited various points along the road, and stationed his men, among other places, at Perryville, Havre de Grace, and Baltimore. He found all desire to injure the road resulted from a wish to prevent the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, and the ultimate design of this contemplated disturbance was purely political.

With a view to penetrate this plot, Mr. Pinkerton stationed men of fine address and appearance at the lead-

ing hotels in Baltimore, they claiming to have come from New Orleans and other southern cities, where they were actually familiar with the localities in such cities, and, going to Baltimore himself, instructed them to assume the appearance of secessionists, wear secession badges, talk secession talk, mingle with secession men, and report to him at his office in that city, approaching by an alley. One of these was Timothy R. Shafter, who was afterward hanged as a union spy in Richmond, Va. These men attended secession meetings, floated with the tide of public opinion, joined in the conspiracy itself, assisted in the formation of a design to assassinate the president, and attended the meetings at which the men were selected for the act of killing. Mr. Pinkerton had also a lady, who represented herself as being from Montgomery, Ala., where she had actually lived, and she moved in society in Baltimore to learn what the ladies had to say on the subject.

The plan there matured was, when the train should arrive upon the railroad from Harrisburg, at 11 o'clock in the morning, for these conspirators to collect at the depot, where Mr. Lincoln would be, and that a riot should be excited and Mr. Lincoln killed in the confusion. By the time these facts had been ascertained he had reached New York on his way from Springfield to Washington. Pinkerton left Baltimore and went to Philadelphia, where he met Mr. Judd, from Chicago, and of the president's party, and late in the evening of the 21st made known the facts above stated to him and Mr. Lincoln.

Gen. Winfield Scott was then commander in chief of the army of the United States, and in that capacity had charge of Mr. Lincoln's inauguration. It was his duty to see that that inauguration took place peaceably. News of this conspiracy having come to his knowledge, he placed the details of the investigation in the hands of his inspector general, Col. Charles P. Stone, who took prompt measures for the protection of Mr. Lincoln.

From Philadelphia to Washington. Mr. Lincoln journeyed in the rear part of a car, which, divided off by a curtain, had been engaged by Pinkerton's lady for a sick brother, and Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Lamon, Mr. Pinkerton, and the lady occupied this part of the sleeper for the journey.

They left Philadelphia about 11 o'clock. Not a soul except the four people in the rear end of the car and the few at the dinner party at Harrisburg, knew that Mr. Lincoln had left that city or was on his way to Washington.

He could not, of course, take a large number of persons with him without attracting attention and betraying his presence, and therefore reduced his arrangements for defense upon that journey to the smallest possible compass by the selection of Ward H. Lamon as his only companion. Lamon was a native of Virginia, who had come to Danville, Ill., at an early day, and for many years had practiced law as the partner of Lincoln on the circuit at that place. He was all over a Virginian, and strong, stout and athletic—a Hercules in stature, tapering from his broad shoulders to his heels, and the handsomest man, physically, I ever saw. He was skilled in all the ways of the manly art, 34 years of age, six feet high, and, although cautious and prudent, was thoroughly courageous and bold. He wore that night two ordinary pistols, two derringers, and two

large knives. You could put no more elements of attack or defense in a human skin than there were in Lamon and his armory on that occasion.

Mr. Lincoln selected him for this place because the two were wholly unlike, and each admired in the other qualities he himself did not possess. Lincoln knew the shedding the last drop of blood in his defense would be the most delightful act of Lamon's life, and that in him he had a regiment, armed and drilled for the most efficient service.

Having taken possession of the rear end of their car the conductor was handed a package of papers for which he had been instructed by telegram to wait. It is not true that Lincoln wore a Scotch cap, or used any other mode of disguise. All the persons accompanying him were dressed in ordinary dress, and went simply as private citizens.

They arrived at Baltimore at 3 o'clock and waited there, because of some ordinary detention, about two hours. Before the train left workmen began to come around, and one was heard to say, with expletives, that "Old Lincoln was coming here today, but I don't believe he will get through alive." Mr. Lincoln laughed heartily at the remark, and soon the train pulled out, and a little after daylight he reached Washington.

During the rebellion confidential informants crept out as to the existence and real purposes of the conspiracy. Shortly after being appointed marshal of the District of Columbia Mr. Lamon arrested a very bad and notorious man in Washington. This man believed himself to be in danger on account of a political offense he had committed, and was greatly alarmed, and Lamon, whose perceptions were keen and clear, discovered from his conversation that he knew something of moment, and consequently cultivated him and finally said to him frankly if he would tell him all he knew he would endeavor to shield him from the charge on which he was arrested. The man did so, and his disclosures confirmed fully the existence of the conspiracy in Baltimore. He named many of the men engaged in it, and stated that the purposes of it were to kill Mr. Lincoln in the riot and confusion created at the depot.

Again, later on in the war, Lamon had occasion to arrest a notorious and dangerous man in Baltimore. The circumstances of his arrest were simply terrific, but finally he was captured, and during his confinement made to Lamon a confession of the conspiracy at Baltimore, and named many parties engaged in it. He also said that the purposes of this conspiracy were to kill Mr. Lincoln.

It is doubtful if there was any time during the war in which there was not in Washington, Baltimore, or in that general vicinity, some conspiracy in existence to capture or injure Mr. Lincoln. On one occasion, in the summer of 1863, if I remember rightly, the writer of this article had occasion, with William H. Hanna of Bloomington, Ill., to ride to the Soldiers' home, about four miles from Washington, to call upon Mr. Lincoln in the evening. Our driver missed the way, passing by the home into the forest below. Being once in the intricacies of this labyrinth, we did not get out until 2 o'clock in the morning, and the question arose why the rebels might not send a force across the river, and, coming up in the woods to the Soldiers' home, capture Mr. Lincoln and carry him within the enemy's lines. Mr. Hanna was

### **An Episode In Lincoln's Life.**

Three men are yet living who know the true story of President Lincoln's secret journey across Baltimore on the night of Feb. 22, 1861, on his way to his inauguration at Washington. Those three men are ex-Governor Curtin, Colonel Lamon and Colonel A. K. McClure, who tells the story in McClure's Magazine. Lincoln had reached Harrisburg on his way to Washington. General Scott and the Pinkerton detectives had become assured that there was a plot to murder the president if he passed through Baltimore by daylight of the 23d, according to the programme arranged.

It was therefore arranged at a dinner given to Lincoln by Governor Curtin at the Jones House, Harrisburg, that the president elect should secretly return to Philadelphia that evening, Feb. 22, and take a night train to Washington. This would convey him through Baltimore some hours before he was expected to arrive there, and in the darkness instead of by daylight. Colonel Thomas A. Scott of the Pennsylvania railroad was one of the men who arranged the journey, and he had all the telegraph wires cut that led out of Harrisburg. Colonel McClure accompanied Scott on his rounds to see that this was done.

The arrangement was carried out to the letter. Lincoln arrived in Washington about daybreak of the 23d. To this day nobody knows for certain whether there would have been any attempt to kill the president had he undertaken to cross Baltimore by daylight. But he himself never would believe there was any danger, Colonel McClure says. He also says that to the day of his death Lincoln regretted that he had listened to the advice of his friends and changed his programme and secretly journeyed from Harrisburg back to Philadelphia and thence to Washington. There was no truth whatever in the sensational stories of the time that he disguised himself. This would have been a very hard thing for a man who looked like Abraham Lincoln to do.



\* \* \*

## Library Gets History of Lincoln Death Plot

A history of a plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln prior to his first

inauguration in 1861 has been presented to the Cleveland Public Library. It was compiled from the papers of Allan Pinkerton, founder of the national detective agency, by his sons, Allan Pinkerton and W. A. Pinkerton.

The elder Pinkerton, at the close of the Civil War, collected statements from a score of persons who had been informed of the plot and who took part in the plan to frustrate it by spiriting Lincoln out of Harrisburg, Pa., on a special train, and cutting telegraph wires to prevent messages that might advise the conspirators.

Pinkerton had been employed to protect the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Delaware Railroad from sabotage by secessionist sympathizers. From operatives in Confederate service, one of whom was later executed as a spy, he learned of the scheme to murder Lincoln as he passed through Baltimore on his way to Washington, Feb. 22, 1861.

Details of the assassination conspiracy are not revealed, save that "a son of a distinguished Maryland resident had taken an oath that he would assassinate Lincoln."



# Dramatic Tale Reveals Almost Forgotten Smuggling of Lincoln Into Washington

By Ira L. Smith.

Noon of February 23, 1861, was drawing near. A reporter on the staff of The Washington Star was setting himself to the long-hand task of writing a few paragraphs for that day's issue of the paper.

Here are the first words he wrote:

"This morning, shortly before 6 o'clock, Mr. Seward wended his way to Willard's, where he remained almost solitary and alone in the hall in front of the office, to the wonderment of the few persons about at that hour, evidently looking for some one to arrive by the train momentarily expected. When the train's passengers for the house did arrive, the mystery of Mr. Seward's so-early appearance at the hotel was instantly cleared up, for the tall figure of Abraham Lincoln was seen conspicuous among them."

Behind that paragraph is a nigh-forgotten story that commands interest at this time, when the echoes of inauguration day cheers have so recently died and the anniversary of Lincoln's birth approaches.

It is the story of the "smuggling" of Lincoln into Washington just before he was to be inaugurated President of the United States.

During several hours prior to his arrival in Washington, only a few persons had known the whereabouts of the President-elect. After attending a dinner at Harrisburg, Pa., Lincoln had vanished, so far as the country at large was concerned. Harrisburg's populace thought he was spending the night at the home of Gov. Curtin of Pennsylvania and that he would take a train for Washington upon arising in the morning. Baltimore's populace went to bed with the idea of trooping down to the railroad station the next day to see the President-to-be as he passed through the city on his way to the Capital.

## Whisked to Capital.

But Lincoln did not spend that night at the Governor's mansion in Harrisburg. Instead, he spent it in being whisked pell-mell to Washington on the strangest journey ever

made by a man who soon was to become President.

Discovery of a plot to assassinate Lincoln before he could reach Washington was the reason for all this. Allan Pinkerton, top-notch detective in those days, and military authorities had learned about this plot through independent investigations. Pinkerton had uncovered the fact

that a group of conspirators had met in Baltimore on the evening of February 8 to plan the assassination and to decide which of their number would actually commit the deed.

Possessed of that information, Pinkerton hastened to Philadelphia. There he met Lincoln on February 21. In the presence of Norman B.

Judd, a close friend of Lincoln's, and President Felton of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad, Pinkerton told his story.

Lincoln, reluctantly becoming convinced that danger was imminent, asked the three men what they thought should be done. Felton suggested that Lincoln's scheduled trip to Harrisburg be canceled, as



President Lincoln arriving in Washington by train on a trip during the early days of his administration.



so Lincoln's raising of a flag at independence Hall the morning of the following day. He counseled for Lincoln's immediate and secret departure for the Capital. The President-elect would not agree to this and left the room after expressing his mind on the subject. After he left the three men who had conversed with him were joined by G. C. Franciscus, general manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and E. S. Sanford, representative of the American Telegraph Co. It was after midnight before the little group dispersed, convinced that a workable plan to protect Lincoln had been evolved.

#### Messages Received.

As Lincoln and his party were on the way to take a special train for Harrisburg the next day, Frederick Seward, son of William H. Seward, who was to be in Lincoln's cabinet, came bustling up with two messages from Washington. One of these, from the elder Seward to Lincoln, read: "My son goes express to you. He will show you a report made by our detective to Gen. Scott and by him communicated to me this morning. I deem it so important as to dispatch my son to meet you wherever you may find you. I concur with Gen. Scott in thinking it best for you to consider your arrangement. No one here at Washington but Gen. Scott, myself and the bearer is aware of this communication. \* \* \*". The other message was a substantiating communication from Gen. Winfield Scott. The entire party, with the exception of Pinkerton, went on to Harrisburg. The detective remained behind to perfect plans for the range events which were to follow.

Things began to happen at Harrisburg soon after the official dinner given at a hotel. Gov. Curtin remarked that Lincoln was forced by headache to retire to his room. The President-elect and the Governor left the dining hall. Instead of going to Lincoln's room, however, they went to a door where Mr. Fran-

ciscus was waiting with a closed carriage.

The Governor gave orders to the driver, in a loud voice, to go to the executive mansion. They did go there, to throw possible followers off the track they eventually were to follow. Then the carriage went to a railroad crossing on the outskirts of Harrisburg, where a locomotive and one passenger coach were waiting.

#### Train Started.

Though dusk was falling when the carriage reached the railroad crossing, no lights were burning in the coach. Lincoln stepped aboard, the starting signal was given and the train was on its way to Philadelphia.

Pinkerton had foreseen the possibility that a newsman or some one else not "in" on the secret trip might accidentally witness Lincoln's departure from Harrisburg. He arranged, accordingly, with officials of the American Telegraph Co. to have all messages from Harrisburg stopped in the company's offices, save only those addressed to "J. H. Hutchinson" at the St. Louis Hotel in Philadelphia. That was the name under which Pinkerton was registered.

One other communication facility between Harrisburg and Baltimore had to be "blocked out" if complete assurance against a "leak" of the secret departure were to be provided. It was the telegraph line of the Northern Central Railroad between Harrisburg and Baltimore. Pinkerton arranged to have that line cut. An official of the company and a trusted lineman followed the line out of Harrisburg a mile or two, cut the wires and grounded them.

#### Special Orders Given

When the special train bearing Lincoln reached Philadelphia it was met at the West Philadelphia station by Allan Pinkerton, who had another closed hack at hand. Sitting beside the driver was H. F. Kenney, superintendent of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad. Kenney had issued special orders to the conductor of the

train due to leave Philadelphia for Washington at 10:50 p.m. The train was not to depart until Kenney handed the conductor an important package.

The hack, with Lincoln and Pinkerton inside, moved slowly and in a round-about way, eventually arriving near the station from which the train for Washington was to depart. The driver was told to go through a narrow street that led to a place where the little party could alight from the carriage in the shadow of a tall fence at the edge of the railroad yards.

Pinkerton then led the little party across the railroad tracks to the train.

The detective had arranged for three sections at the rear of the sleeping car on the end of the train to be left unoccupied. For the benefit of those who might become curious about this arrangement and try to learn more, the story was circulated that a wealthy invalid was going to be put aboard the train during the night and wanted berths near his to be vacant so his sleep would not be disturbed.

Entering the sleeping car, Lincoln vanished behind the curtains of his berth and was not seen again by any one until the train pulled into Washington the next morning. Pinkerton, posing as a "friend" of the berth's occupant, told the conductor the "invalid" was not to be disturbed and handed over a ticket for his transportation.

George H. Bangs and Mrs. Kate Warn, two of Pinkerton's top-flight operatives, were stationed in berths on either side of Lincoln's.

The train waited five minutes beyond its scheduled time of departure while the "important package"—in reality a bundle of old newspapers—was delivered into the keeping of the train's conductor.

As the train started, Pinkerton took position on the rear platform of the train.

Baltimore was reached at half-past 3 in the morning. And the train pulled into the Washington station a little before 6 o'clock. As the locomotive gave forth its last chug, the passengers alighted. After most of them had disappeared, the tall form of a man who wore a plaid cap and an ill-fitting overcoat, hastily given him in Harrisburg, entered a hack and told the driver to go to Willard's.

Later in the day the Associated Press sent this dispatch out of Washington:

"Not a little sensation prevailed throughout the city as soon as it became known that Mr. Lincoln had arrived on the early train. It was unsuccessfully sought to conceal the fact, especially from the newspaper press."

The fact might have been concealed if the "newspaper press" had not included a reporter who wondered why William H. Seward was nervously pacing across a hotel lobby at 6 o'clock in the morning.

# OMINOUS INCIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY

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Warning Conveyed to Abraham Lincoln on  
His Journey to Washington  
for Inauguration.

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Dangerous Conspiracy to Assassinate Him  
While Passing Through the  
City of Baltimore.

Hon. Jno. Arthur  
Aug 02  
Seattle Wash.

The President - Elec. as Informed of  
It and Safely Reached the  
National Capital.

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At the celebration of Founders' day at Union college, Schenectady, the Hon. Frederick W. Seward, of the class of 1849, spoke on "Washington's Home and Birthday in War Time." In his address Mr. Seward, who was assistant secretary of state while his father held that portfolio during Lincoln's administration, said:

"While the Civil War was raging the banks of the Potomac were the scenes of many bloody conflicts. Armed vessels patrolled the river. Fortifications were erected on its heights. Armies encamped along its shores. The sound of cannon and musketry daily echoed over its waters. Homes and fields were abandoned by the owners, for none felt safe against the raids of scouting or foraging parties of the Union or Confederate troops.

"But there was one exception. Both

sides respected Mount Vernon. Neither army sought to occupy or fortify it. No foraging or plundering took place within its borders. The old furniture stood peacefully in the old rooms. The old trees stood unharmed in the old groves. It was the one bit of neutral ground in that long and bloody war. Reverence for Washington's home and memory hardly needed to be inculcated by the commanders, for it was implanted in the heart of every soldier, whether he was a Northern man or a Southern one.

"There was a story current in those days that the old mansion was left in charge of two persons, a man and his sister. He was a Union man. She was a Confederate sympathizer. When visitors approached from the river side they were presumably from the Union gunboats, and he went out to meet them. When they approached from



the landward side they were presumably from the Confederate camps, and she went out to greet them. But it made very little difference. Which-ever they were, they all came as friends, and were received as such.

"When Prince Jerome Napoleon, with his suite, visited Washington during the war, he inquired about Mount Vernon.

"Is it in your hands or held by the enemy?"

"Neither, Prince," was the reply. "It is sacred and treated as neutral ground."

"One of the French visitors remarked: 'Yes, you have war all around, but for him peace forever.'"

"And now I will go back to a somewhat earlier period, the troublesome times just before the war broke out, and tell you how we spent Washington's birthday in February, 1861.

"The country, North and South, was then in a fever of unrest, anxiety, and alarm. Several states had formally seceded, but no active hostilities had yet occurred. The new president, Abraham Lincoln, had been elected, out not yet inaugurated. He, with his family and friends, was on his way from Illinois to Washington. His journey was not a rapid one, as he had to pause for the receptions and ovations that the people of the various cities were eager to tender him. He had made stops at Indianapolis, Columbus, Pittsburg, and New York, and was also to be welcomed at Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Baltimore.

"On Thursday, the 21st of February, I was in the gallery of the senate chamber at Washington when a page came to me with a message that Senator Seward wanted to see me. I went down and found him in the lobby. He showed me a note he had just received from General Scott. The general was then at the head of the army. Under his command Colonel Charles P. Stone was organizing such troops as there were then in Washington, to prevent any outbreak or riot in the city on or before inauguration day. In his note he said he had some information about a dangerous conspiracy to mob, attack, and kill the president-elect when passing through Baltimore. There would be ample opportunity. The mass of the people there were unfriendly to him. There would be a long delay in getting from

one railroad station to the other. There would be crowds, hurly-burly, and excitement. An armed conspirator could easily get near enough to the president-elect to fire a revolver at him, and then escape in the subsequent confusion.

"My father handed me General Scott's letter, inclosed in one that he had just written to Mr. Lincoln. He said:

"Whether this story is well-founded or not, Mr. Lincoln ought to know of it at once. But I know of no reason to doubt it. General Scott is impressed with the belief that the danger is real. Colonel Stone has facilities for knowing, and is not apt to exaggerate. I want you to go by the first train. Find Mr. Lincoln, wherever he is. Let no one else know your errand. I have written him that I think he should change his arrangements and pass through Baltimore at a different hour. I know it may occasion some embarrassment and perhaps some ill-natured talk. Nevertheless, I would strongly advise him to do it."

"Of course I took the next train to Philadelphia. On the way I learned that the president-elect would spend the night at the Continental hotel, and would be serenaded in the evening.

"It was 10 o'clock when I reached there. The street was crowded with people. The hotel was brilliant with lights. Music and cheering made the scene a festive one. The halls and stairways were full of people. In the parlors were throngs of ladies and gentlemen who had called to pay their respects to the new president. Presentations seemed to be going on. Certainly this was no time for the delivery of my secret message.

"On inquiry, I found a room at the head of the stairs, said to be occupied by Mr. Robert Lincoln, the president's son. I had never met him, but I understood that he was intending to be a Harvard student, and I was not surprised to find him surrounded by a group of young men, chatting and laughing. Introducing myself, he gave me a cordial greeting, and introduced me to Colonel Ward H. Lamon, his father's law partner. Colonel Lamon took my arm and proposed to go at once into the parlor to present me to Mr. Lincoln. When I told him my interview must be a private one

16, 621

68, 107

84, 728

Car - Ward, passenger and

and attract as little attention as possible, he laughed and said:

"Then I think I had better take you to his bedroom. If you don't mind waiting there, you'll be sure to meet him, for he has got to go there some time tonight, and it is the only place I know of where he will be likely to be alone."

"This was just the opportunity I desired. Thanking the colonel, I sat and waited an hour or two in the quiet room while the noise and bustle were going on outside."

"At last I heard Colonel Lamon coming down the hall with Mr. Lincoln. I had never before seen him, but his portraits in the newspaper and on the campaign banners had made his face seem familiar. I could not but notice how correctly they had given his features, and how they had failed to give his careworn look and his pleasant, kindly smile. After an exchange of a few words of greeting, I told him of my errand, and gave him the letter I had brought. He sat down by the table under the gaslight to read it. Naturally one might have expected that its contents would startle him. But he made no exclamation, and I saw no sign of surprise in his face. He read it carefully through—then held it up to the light, and deliberately read it through a second time. Then he paused a moment in thought, and said:

"Did you hear anything about the way this information was obtained? Do you know anything as to how they got it?"

"No," I had heard nothing in regard to it till that morning, when called down by my father from the senate gallery.

"Your father and General Scott do not say who they think are concerned in it. Do you think they know?"

"On that point, too, I could give no additional information further than my impression that my father's knowledge of it was limited to what had been communicated to him by Colonel Stone, in whose statements he had implicit confidence."

"Did you ever hear any names mentioned? Did you, for instance, ever hear anything said about such a name as Pinkerton?"

"No," I had heard no such name in connection with the matter—no

at all, in fact, except those of General Scott and Colonel Stone.

"He thought a moment and then said:

"I may as well tell you why I ask. There were stories or rumors some time ago, before I left home, about people who were intending to do me mischief. I never attached much importance to them—never wanted to believe any such thing. So I never would do anything about them in the way of taking precautions and the like. Some of my friends, though, thought differently—Judd and others—and without my knowledge they employed a detective to look into the matter. It seems he has occasionally reported what he found, and only today, since we arrived at this house, he brought this story, or something like it, about an attempt on my life in the confusion and hurly-burly of the reception at Baltimore."

"Surely, Mr. Lincoln," said I, "that is a strong corroboration of the news I bring you."

"He smiled and shook his head."

"That is exactly why I was asking you about names. If different persons, not knowing of each other's work, have been pursuing separate clues that led to the same result, why, then, it shows there may be something in it. But if this is only the same story, filtered through two channels, and reaching me in two ways, then that don't make it any stronger. Don't you see?"

"The logic was unanswerable. But I asserted my strong belief that the two investigations had been conducted independently of each other, and urged that there was enough of probability to make it prudent to adopt the suggestion and make slight changes in hour and train that would avoid all risk."

"After a little further discussion of the matter, Mr. Lincoln rose and said:

"Well, we haven't got to decide it tonight, anyway, and I see it is getting late."

"Then, noticing that I looked disappointed at his reluctance to regard the warning, he said, kindly:

"You need not think I will not consider it well. I shall think it over carefully, and try to decide it right; and I will let you know in the morning."



"The next morning was Washington's birthday. Mr. Lincoln went early to the old Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed, to take part in the ceremony of raising the flag there. He made a brief address. In it there was a sentence that had deeper meaning than his auditors imagined. Adverting to the principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence, he said:

"If this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on the spot than surrender it."

"Soon after breakfast he let me know that he would make the change in his plans as he had been advised.

"He made his visit to Harrisburg, and then hastened back to Philadelphia, and, taking the night train, went on quietly and unrecognized, passing through Baltimore several hours before he was expected there, and thus frustrated the plans of the conspirators.

"I had telegraphed my father, using a word previously agreed upon. So, on Saturday morning, he and Mr. E. B. Washburne, then member of congress from Illinois, were at the railroad station in Washington to greet Mr. Lincoln and Colonel Lamon as they stepped from the train on its arrival.

"Four years later a similar plot, more carefully planned and more successfully executed, robbed the country of its great president. But meanwhile he had had time to perform his great work for liberty and humanity—the work of emancipation and union."





